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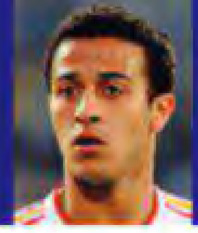

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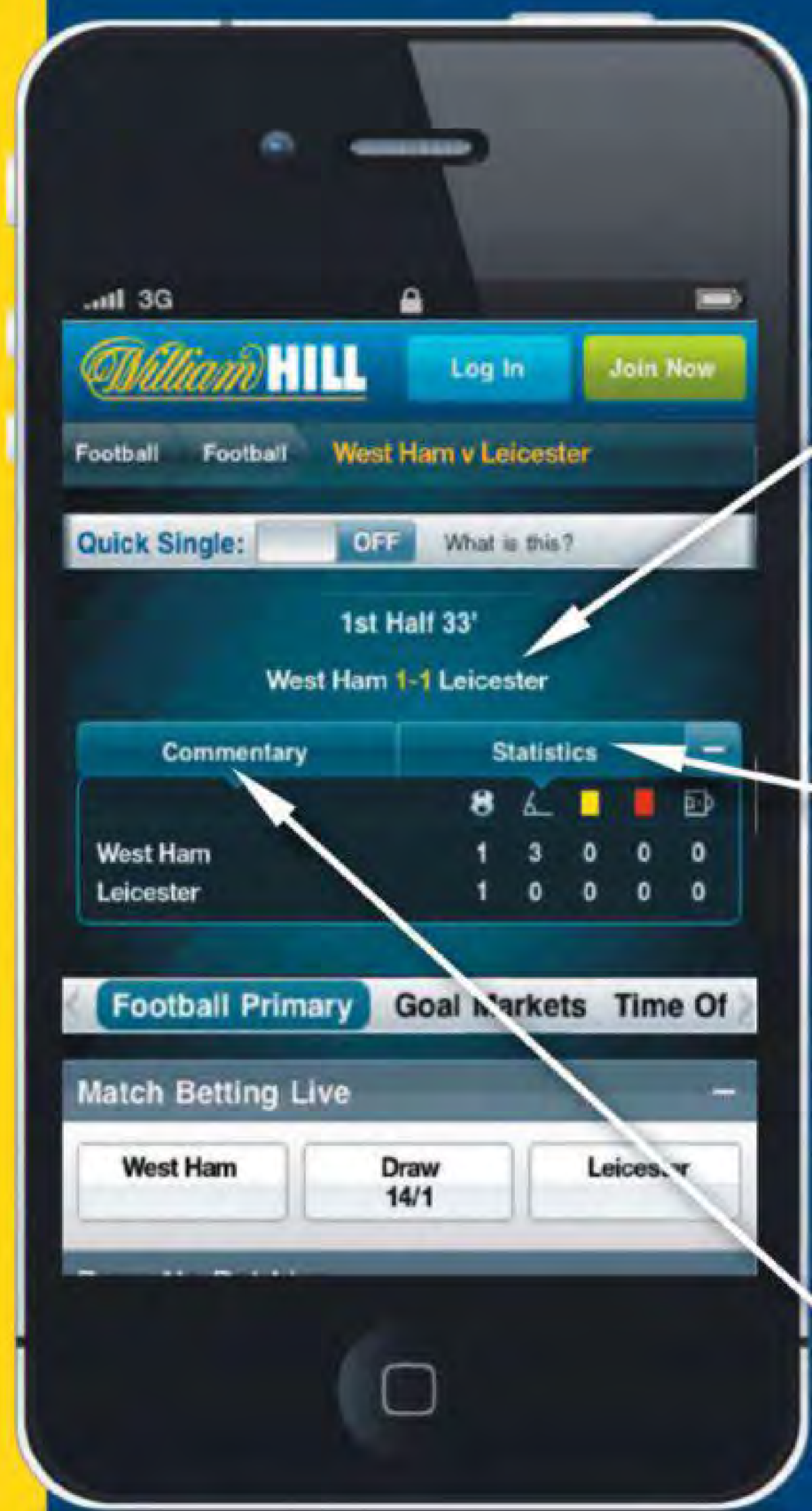

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In Pictures

The global game caught on camera

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TURKEY...not a single man in sight as Fenerbahce's Sukru Saracoglu Stadium is packed to the rafters with 41,000 women and children for the league game against Manisaspor. Under new Turkish league rules, if a club is sanctioned for unruly crowd behaviour, only women and children under 12 will be allowed into the stadium to watch matches

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ENGLAND...Chelsea manager Andre Villas-Boas and club stalwarts Frank Lampard (left) and John Terry look on anxiously during the League Cup tie at home to Fulham

EGYPT...a laser is beamed by Zamalek fans during the Egyptian Cup Final against ENPPI in Cairo

PORTUGAL...Andre Carrillo of Sporting Lisbon feels the full force of the forearm of Vitoria Setubal's Ricardo Silva during a Portuguese league encounter at the Alvalade stadium in Lisbon

Fiorellagg.com

MONTENEGRO...home fans celebrate the draw with England in Podgorica that guaranteed a play-off place for Euro 2012

URUGUAY...Nacional substitutes look helpless as assistant referee Milciades Saldivar lies on the ground after being hit by an object thrown from the crowd

ROMANIA...Marcos Antonio (top) of Rapid Bucharest competes for the ball with PSV Eindhoven's Tim Matavz during a Europa League game

FROM THE EDITOR

Another month, another big-spending club under the spotlight. But Shakhtar Donetsk (page 56) are worthy of our attention because of the serious progress they are making in European club competition.

It's easy to accuse Shakhtar's oligarch owner Rinat Akhmetov of "financial doping" and distorting the sporting landscape. Yet last season Shakhtar received considerably less prize money from UEFA than Arsenal, even though they finished above the English club in their Champions League group and went a round further in the knockout stage. And without Akhmetov's spending on the fantastic new stadium in Donetsk, UEFA would not be in a position to hold next summer's European Championship in Ukraine.

> Without Shakhtar owner Akhmetov's spending on the new stadium in Donetsk, UEFA would be unable to hold Euro 2012 in Ukraine

The annual *World Soccer* awards are upon us again and I urge you to take part. The awards are the oldest of their kind in the world game and we are proud of the coverage that the awards continue to receive. You can vote using the coupon on page 42, or at ww.worldsoccer.com. Please make your contribution.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1. In the Euro 2012 qualifiers, France reached the finals automatically, along with Denmark, England, Russia and Sweden..... pages 35 and 91
2. Estonia qualified for the Euro 2012 play-offs ..... page 12
3. Against the odds, Libya made the African Nations Cup finals for the first time..... page 90
4. South Africa missed out on the Nations Cup after a blunder..... page 39
5. Sepp Blatter is set to announce major reforms of FIFA ..... page 70
6. Chuck Blazer is to step down as secretary-general of CONCACAF..... page 72
7. Wayne Rooney will miss the group stage of Euro 2012 after being banned by UEFA for violent conduct..... page 8
8. Claudio Ranieri was announced as the new Internazionale coach, replacing Gian Piero Gasperini..... pages 14 and 36
9. German football united in sympathy for Ralf Rangnick, who quit Schalke, citing stress..... page 31
10. Carlos Tevez is suspended by Manchester City..... pages 13 and 18

ENGLAND

Capello facing dilemma over banned Rooney

Dismissed...Rooney is sent off in Montenegro

The countdown to England's participation in next summer's Euro 2012 finals is set to be dominated by debate over whether coach Fabio Capello should include Wayne Rooney in his squad.

The Manchester United striker will only be free to play in Poland/Ukraine should England reach the quarter-finals after he was banned for three matches by UEFA for violent conduct.

Rooney was sent off for violent play after kicking out at Montenegro's Miodrag Dzudovic after losing the ball during the second half of England's final Euro 2012 qualifier, which ended 2-2 in Podgorica.

Rooney had played against Montenegro despite the arrest the previous day of his father, Wayne senior, and uncle, Richie.

The pair had been detained by police on Merseyside along with seven other men, including Motherwell midfielder Steve Jennings, following a nine-month investigation into suspicious betting patterns on a Scottish Premier League match between Motherwell and Hearts last December.

Jennings, a contemporary of Rooney in Everton's youth teams, was sent off against Hearts after receiving a second yellow card for putting his hand on referee Stevie O'Reilly.

A series of bets had been placed on the possibility of Jennings being sent off during the match. One was allegedly from a new account opened in Liverpool, from where £500 was staked at odds of 10/1.

Rooney's father, who was released on bail, vigorously denied allegations of being involved in a football betting scam and said he was "co-operating fully" with the police investigation.

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"You never forget your mother. Guy Roux is mine. He brought me into the world of football"

Lazio's ever-eccentric French striker Djibril Cisse pays a typically unconventional tribute to his old Auxerre boss

BRAZIL

Problems mount for World Cup boss Teixeira

Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian federation and chairman of the 2014 World Cup organising committee, is facing mounting pressure over growing evidence of his involvement in corruption.

Last year Teixeira, along with fellow FIFA executive members Nicolas Leoz and Issa Hayatou, was accused by the BBC's *Panorama* programme of taking bribes from ISL, FIFA's former marketing partner. Brazilian prosecutor Marcelo Freire has now announced that he will ask federal police to investigate whether Teixeira illegally transferred money into Brazil after allegedly taking the bribes.

Most recently, a report by *The Economist* appears to suggest that Teixeira and his associates, who included former Nike Brazil executive and current Barcelona president Sandro Rosell, benefited from a November 2008 friendly between Brazil and Portugal in Brasilia.

Prosecutors in Brasilia are investigating a deal between the federal government and Ailanto, a sports marketing firm based in Rio de Janeiro of which Rosell was a director. Ailanto was reported to have received 9million reais (£3.25m) for the marketing rights to the game, even though receipted expenditure was only around 1m reais (£360,000).

Teixeira also declined to answer questions about a contract, seen by *The Economist*, which appeared to commit Vanessa Precht, Rosell's partner in Ailanto, to leasing a farm in the state of Rio de Janeiro from Teixeira for 10,000 reais (£3,600) a month for five years. When journalists visited the farm earlier this year, they found nobody who had heard of Precht.

Trouble brewing ...Teixeira

HEROES & VILLAINS

JONE SAMUELSEN

Odd Grenland's midfielder claimed a world record after he scored with a header 62 yards from goal in a Norwegian league game against Tromso.

OWEN HARGREAVES

Scored on his Manchester City debut and played 57 minutes of the match against Birmingham City in the Carling Cup. He had previously managed just six minutes in the last three years, due to injury.

JAVIER ZANETTI

Broke Giuseppe Bergomi's record of 756 appearances for Internazionale when he played in the away game at Novara.

Record...Zanetti

MARCOS FASCANELLA

The Excursionistas goalkeeper saved five penalties in one match against fellow fourth-division club Argentino de Merlo in the newly inaugurated Copa Argentina. He saved one spot-kick during normal time and then four more in the resulting shoot-out. And just for good measure, he also scored one himself as his side won 2-1 on penalties.

Saving grace... Fascanella

BYRON MORENO

The former Ecuadorean referee, who sent off Francesco Totti and disallowed an Italy goal in their 2-1 defeat by South Korea in the 2002 World Cup, was jailed for two-and-a-half years after being found guilty of smuggling heroin into the United States.

Unmoved...Moreno ignores protests from Italy's Angelo Di Livio

MATT MOUSSILOU

The Lausanne Sports striker was banned for four matches following a fight in a stadium car park after his side's 4-2 defeat at Servette. The Congo international claims opponent Vincent Rufli racially abused him.

Banned... Moussilou

YORDAN LECHKOV

Bulgaria's hero of their famous 2-0 World Cup win over Germany in 1994 was handed a three-year prison sentence (suspended for five years) for abuse of power as mayor of the southern town of Sliven.

DIEGO MARADONA

The coach of Al Wasl was seen on YouTube kicking out at a fan who had lifted a banner behind him when the Argentinian was posing for a pre-match photo shoot. Although the kick was somewhat gentle it could be construed as offensive in Arab culture.

"If you are pious, go to a church, friends, but the fact is that our business is our business...If there is anybody here who has a conscience and wishes to send back the money, I am willing to take the money and give it back to him [Bin Hammam] at any moment"

Jack Warner to Caribbean Football Union members who had been offered $40,000 each by Mohamed Bin Hammam

BULGARIA

Matthaus coaching adventure ends in disaster after 361 days

When Lothar Matthaus, one of Germany's most famous players, took charge of Bulgaria's national team one year ago, his appointment was greeted with tremendous fanfare in Bulgaria.

The former Germany captain promised to change the mentality and the mood of the players. And although their chances of qualifying for Euro 2012 had lessened after opening defeats by England and Montenegro, Matthaus began his work with gusto.

His first match in charge, a 1-0 win away to Wales, gave him some breathing space, which was much needed because public opinion over his appointment was divided. Some Bulgarians wanted a foreigner as coach, but others were sceptical of a man whose coaching CV was unimpressive and who had a number of unfinished contracts. His monthly salary of £25,000 was also questioned by many.

At first, the players respected Matthaus and discipline improved, but soon the problems began. He tried to recall Dimitar Berbatov, but the Manchester United forward refused. Matthaus had promised to live in Bulgaria and watch players in the local championship, but he spent most of the time abroad, like Spain's Javier Clemente in Serbia and the USA-based Jurgen Klinsmann when coach of Germany.

Matthaus quickly earned a reputation as a globe-trotter, with his flight tickets and hotels organised by the BFU. There was also plenty of speculation about his private life. Shortly before his arrival in Bulgaria he divorced his fourth wife, Liliana, a Ukrainian. The joke was that maybe his fifth wife would be Bulgarian, but instead he began a relationship with a student from Cyprus, Ariadne, and then with Yoanna Tuchinska from Poland. At the end of February, when he was expected to be in Sofia for the "eternal derby" between Levski and CSKA, Matthaus was with Tuchinska in Dubai to watch a poker tournament.

He began to rely increasingly on his Bulgarian assistant coaches for advice on selection, which led to some confusing decisions. After a 1-0 friendly defeat to Belarus in Minsk, he banned the players from leaving the hotel, but some still sneaked out for a beer.

An "anti-Matthaus" group emerged among the squad and Stanislav Manolev quit the squad before the qualifier against England in Sofia, joining Valeri Bojinov in declaring he would not play again while Matthaus was still coach.

The low point of the Matthaus era proved to be the 3-1 defeat by Switzerland in September. Matthaus had said that he knew the Swiss team well because his son (by his second wife) lived there and had told him everything he needed to know about Bulgaria's forthcoming opponents.

BFU president Borislav Mihaylov had wanted Matthaus to fulfil his contract until the end of the World Cup qualifiers in 2013 but, after defeats to England at home and away to Switzerland, the BFU executive decided to wield the axe.

After the loss to Switzerland in Basle, Matthaus had flown to Munich where, on hearing of his dismissal, he commented: "The decision wasn't a surprise for me, because the results were not good and Bulgaria didn't qualify."

Up against it...Matthaus struggled to improve the fortunes of Bulgaria's national side

Match of the day... Matthaus and girlfriend Tuchinska at the Bulgarian Cup Final

Mihaylov added: "There were a lot of scandals in the squad and the atmosphere was not good. There was tension between Matthaus and the players, which the coach couldn't neutralise."

And so ended Matthaus' coaching adventure in Bulgaria. His 361 days in charge were a fiasco for the national team, who finished bottom of their Euro 2012 qualifying group, but also a personal disaster for the former Germany star, who must now find another job in another country.

Rumen Paytashev

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"It's because I'm good looking, rich and talented"

Modest to a fault, Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo explains why he was jeered by the Dinamo Zagreb crowd throughout a Champions League game

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see clips of these goals, visit **www.worldsoccer.com**

1 IVAN PERISIC
Borussia Dortmund v Arsenal
A left-foot volley from just outside the penalty area after Arsenal fail to clear a free-kick.

2 XAVI
Barcelona v Osasuna
An intricate move of more than 12 passes is finished with a delicate lob.

3 OSMAR FERREYRA
Independiente v Atletico Rafaela
An outrageously high lob from just inside the opposition's half.

4 CRISTIANO RONALDO
Real Madrid v Ajax
Counter-attacking football at it's best as Real sweep from one end of the field to the other at pace and with precision passing in their Champions League clash.

5 EREN DERDIYOK
Bayer Leverkusen v Wolfsburg
Controls a pass on the volley as he runs into the penalty area before acrobatically finishing with his back to goal.

6 JULIO BAPTISTA
Malaga v Getafe
A bicycle kick from 13 yards that flies into the top corner of the net, giving the opposition goalkeeper no chance.

7 INIGO MARTINEZ
Real Sociedad v Athletic Bilbao
Sociedad's young centre-back will always remember his first goal as a professional, scoring from inside his own half with a sweetly struck left-footed shot in the Basque derby, against Athletic Bilbao, with an effort so precise and powerful that the slightly advanced opposition goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz had no chance.

Martinez and his team-mates eventually lost 2-1, but at least the 20-year-old had the consolation of his moment of inspiration, a one-off described by former Sociedad midfield star Xabi Alonso as the best finish ever to be seen at the San Sebastian club's Anoeta stadium.

Alonso should know what he is talking about. After all, he was on target with a similar long-ranger in Liverpool's FA Cup win over Luton Town back in 2006.

The youngster seems to have a flair for "exploits". A month ago, in Spain's under-21 game against Georgia, he somehow scored one of the strangest own goals, as a 30-yard backheel caught keeper David De Gea unaware.

WINNERS

REAL MADRID
Set a new world record for annual income, making £418.4million (not including player sales) last season.

MATT MCKAY
The Rangers midfielder was voted Australia's player of the year, ahead of AZ Alkmaar's Brett Holman and Tim Cahill of Everton.

JARI LITMANEN
At the age of 40, Finland's greatest-ever player finally got his hands on the championship trophy for the first time as HJK Helsinki secured the title.

LOSERS

SEPAHAN
The Iranian club fielded an ineligible player in their AFC Champions League quarter-final against Al Sadd of Qatar and had their 1-0 home win overturned. Al Sadd were awarded a 3-0 victory and eventually went through 4-2 on aggregate.

COLIN KLASS
The Guyana FA boss was banned for 26 months after a FIFA investigation into the Caribbean Football Union bribery scandal.

MYANMAR
Fined £20,000 and barred from the 2018 World Cup qualifiers as punishment for crowd violence at a 2014 qualifier in July.

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"Do you think I would have left [a striker] on the bench and put on a midfielder if I knew we needed a goal? It doesn't make sense"

South Africa coach Pitso Mosimane tries to explain why he told his team to play for a draw against Sierra Leone, when they actually needed a win to qualify for January's African Nations Cup finals

ESTONIA

Underdogs celebrate their surprise status as Euro 2012 play-off contenders

"It would have been a great joke if somebody had said before the tournament that Estonia would qualify for the play-offs despite losing to Faroe Islands," said Aivar Pohlak, president of the Estonian FA, after Slovenia had beaten Serbia in the final group game of the Euro 2012 qualifiers.

But defeat for Serbia meant that Estonia finished in second place behind Italy in their group and did indeed make it to the play-offs, where they have been drawn against the Republic of Ireland

Irrespective of what happens, the Euro 2012 qualifiers were easily Estonia's best campaign since joining UEFA in the 1990s as the Baltic state had never previously finished higher than fourth in a qualifying campaign.

"We really deserved this," says Pohlak. "Of course, we had a lot of luck in the qualifying campaign, but at the same time we have never played so attractively or efficiently."

The qualifying campaign was an eventful affair right from the start. In their first match in Tallinn, against the Faroes, Estonia recovered from conceding an early goal to score twice in second-half injury time to snatch victory.

Spectacular highs and terrible lows followed. They pulled off arguably their greatest-ever win, 3-1 over Serbia in Belgrade, but that was followed by two defeats, 3-0 to Italy in Modena and, four days later, an embarrassing 2-0 reverse to the Faroes in Toftir.

"Yes, we were in a crisis at that moment," admits Pohlak.

After these defeats, Estonia needed all nine points from their final three games to have any hope of overtaking Serbia. "Sometimes you just need some bad times to find new motivation," says goalkeeper Sergei Pareiko.

The last laugh...FA boss Pohlak

Spot on...Vassiljev (no14) celebrates his opening goal against Northern Ireland

And six points from games against Northern Ireland, plus a further three from Slovenia, handed Estonia one of the most remarkable qualifications of recent times.

Until 2010, national coach Tarmo Ruutli combined his duties with coaching Flora Tallinn, the country's most successful side, who were formed in 1990 by FA president Pohlak, an unconventional figure who was one of the few to take a stand against Sepp Blatter at the FIFA Congress in May.

Ruutli has promoted a number of Flora youngsters to the national side in place of veterans who have departed the international scene in the past year. Gone are Martin Reim, who won 157 caps before succeeding Ruutli at Flora, striker Andres Oper who has struggled to find a club, and fellow striker Indrek Zelinski who has retired. However, captain Raio Piiroja, a defender with more than 100 caps, remains while Konstantin Vassiljev, top scorer in the qualifying campaign with five, emerged as a valuable source of goals.

Estonia earned 10 points from games in which they had initially gone behind in the qualifiers and they will need that mental strength against the Irish.

"The most important thing now is to control our emotions," says Pohlak. "But it's a tough thing to do. We have completed all our targets and are looking hopefully to the play-offs, too."

Andres Must

PLAY-OFF DRAW

Bosnia-Herzegovina v Portugal
Czech Republic v Montenegro
Estonia v Republic of Ireland
Turkey v Croatia

1st legs - Nov 11/12
2nd legs - Nov 15

"You can't call Maradona a coach, he's a circus act"

Al Jazira's technical director Andre Wetzel on the coach of UAE rivals Al Wasl

■ OBITUARIES

Mohammad AL JABERI
(1994-2011)
The 17-year-old goalkeeper died following a training session with the Oman national under-19 side after complaining of a headache.

Theyab AWANA
(1990-2011)
The United Arab Emirates midfielder, who scored a controversial backheeled penalty for his country against Lebanon in July, was killed in a car crash when travelling home from training with his club side Baniyas.

Motoring accident...Awana

Jesus PEREDA
(1938-2011)
The former Barcelona midfielder, who scored one goal and set up the other as Spain beat the Soviet Union 2-1 in the Final of the 1964 European Championship, died after a long illness.

Zakaria ZEROUALI
(1978-2011)
The Raja Casablanca and former Morocco defender died from an overdose of painkillers that led to acute liver failure.

Liver failure...Zerouali

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Tevez can't walk the walk if he can't talk the talk

Carlos Tevez claimed, like a little boy lost in a big bad world, that his refusal to take the field as a substitute for Manchester City against Bayern Munich in the Champions League was a mere "misunderstanding" with his manager Roberto Mancini; that his grasp of a routine football situation was lost in translation.

It was an excuse so lacking in credibility that people laughed at his folly. Nobody could buy into that explanation. A manager gesturing for you to leave the bench and join the play brooks no misinterpretation. Tevez deserved all the fierce criticism that has washed away his esteem at City.

I have never accepted the idea, however, that there is a global language of football, that information about the game can be conveyed by a nod and a wink, by signals and gestures. Communication is more complicated than that – even in professional sport.

> Tevez and Mancini have not been able to communicate properly with each other

While the particular incident in Munich was inexcusable, the long-term breakdown in the relationship between player and manager surely had language at its heart. They have not been able to communicate properly with each other.

The Argentinian striker has spent five years in English football, yet can barely construct a sentence. Mancini is still less than fluent in his use of English, which must be the lingua franca of the dressing room at City or any other Premier League club.

It's easy when a team is winning to forget the nuances of conversation, of mood, of dressing-room banter. In times of trouble – and every team has them – language is vital in making message and intention understood.

This can make or break managers and players in a foreign land. Ian Rush, for example, quickly stalled in his career at Juventus because he struggled with the language. Joe Jordan, in contrast, enjoyed a sustained spell of success in Serie A, helped in great part by his fluency in Italian.

I vividly remember Jordan's first day as a manager, at lower-league club Bristol City. His team won and the local press corps gathered in his office afterwards to talk about the game. The telephone rang and it was an Italian sportswriter offering his congratulations. The Scot spoke for 10 minutes in a torrent of Italian, much to the amazement of many in the room. But why? Surely it's obvious that if you play in a country you learn to speak the lingo.

Steve McClaren is a fine manager and had a triumphant two seasons at Twente in Holland, a country where English is widely spoken as a second language. But he was a failure the following year at Wolfsburg, his inability to communicate in German a crucifying hardship in the Bundesliga.

England has similar classic examples. Juande Ramos was brilliant at Sevilla, where he won the UEFA Cup, but hopeless at Tottenham Hotspur because he spoke no English and hardly improved in many months there.

Fabio Capello, one of the modern greats of management, has been flawed as England manager by poor language skills. After nearly four years he still needs a translator to understand mundane media questions.

Chelsea have had no English manager since Glenn Hoddle in the mid 1990s. The best of them since – Jose Mourinho, Guus Hiddink and Carlo Ancelotti – have had either serviceable or outstanding language skills. The least successful, Luiz Felipe Scolari, could not communicate with ease.

Football's global language is a myth. The game is very technical and highly tactical, a sport of big business, an arena in which players have vast wealth and therefore power within clubs. If you are unable to communicate clearly and coherently in this world, you face mighty trouble.

Tevez claimed it was a misunderstanding in Munich. In a sense it was: it was his misunderstanding that you can play football in a country for five years, be paid vast amounts to do so, and still believe that learning the local language is optional. WS

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"Football is no longer burning inside me like back in the days. Playing football has become a routine job. I am starting to become tired of football and am no longer motivated"

Milan fans have good cause for concern after reading a Zlatan Ibrahimovic interview with *Gazetta dello Sport*

REPORTS we couldn't make up

1 The inspiration for one of football's best-known goal celebrations has taken his first steps to becoming a professional like his famous father, Bebeto, by signing for Flamengo.

Two days after the birth of his son, Mattheus – who was named after Germany's Lothar Matthaus – Bebeto performed the baby-rocking dance with Romario and Mazinho, who is the dad of Barcelona midfielder Thiago, as Brazil beat Holland in the 1994 World Cup.

2 Jonathan De Falco, a defender who was previously with Belgian clubs Leuven, Racing Mechelen and Deinze, has turned his back on football to concentrate on a more lucrative career as a gay porn star.

"The football world is not ready for gay players," said the 27-year-old. "There is too much prejudice and generally low tolerance. Since I was 20 I have been in gay circles, but when I played soccer, nobody noticed anything. If my orientation would have been known, there would have been problems."

He uses the stage name Stany Falcone for his new job and has appeared in several productions.

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ITALY

Ranieri takes on Inter mission

Angry...Ranieri

When new Internazionale coach Claudio Ranieri lost his cool with referee Gianluca Rocchi in the wake of a mistaken penalty call in the 3-0 home defeat by Napoli, it was very out of character. Over the years in Italy, as in England and Spain, 59-year-old Ranieri has always seemed like a reasonable, impeccably well-mannered customer.

His anger with Rocchi says something about the referee's poor decision but, refereeing howlers apart, Ranieri knows only too well that, as he tries to get Inter's season back on track, he has got to fix his defence. In the last year, from October 2010 to October 2011, the Inter defence conceded twice as many goals as they did in the previous 12-month period. And it's not just tactical changes that are required; age is catching up on a defence in which none of the Champions League winners are getting younger: Julio Cesar is 32, Maicon 30, Lucio 33, Walter Samuel 33 and Cristian Chivu 30.

In his two games in charge, prior to the Napoli reverse, it seemed that the canny Ranieri might have worked a miracle cure, beating Bologna 3-1 in Serie A and CSKA Moscow 3-2 in the Champions League, in two away games played in five days. However, misfortune (or bad refereeing) intervened in the third game against Napoli in the shape of that dubious 43rd-minute penalty, when the score was still 0-0.

Inter and Ranieri got very hot under the collar for at least three good reasons. Firstly, the foul on Napoli's Christian Maggio by Joel Obi took place outside the penalty area. Secondly, referee Rocchi sent off Obi for a second yellow-card offence, having already booked him for what looked like a fair challenge on Napoli striker Ezequiel Lavezzi.

Thirdly, when the penalty was taken by Marek Hamsik, it was saved by Julio Cesar, whose clearance fell to Napoli defender Hugo Campagnaro, who slotted home the all-important goal. The problem was TV replays showed Campagnaro and three Inter players inside the area when Hamsik struck the penalty, meaning it should have been retaken. Little surprise then that the normally composed Ranieri so lost his cool with Rocchi that he got himself sent off.

"I wasn't angry with him because of his mistakes but it was his attitude that got me," Ranieri told *Gazzetta Dello Sport*. "However, that doesn't mean that I now think everybody is out to get Inter."

That is more like the reasonable, balanced Ranieri we know and respect.

Paddy Agnew

"A super player. Just not every week"

Cologne general manager Volker Finke highlights the lack of consistency in striker Lukas Podolski

SPAIN

Casillas prepares to match record

History is calling Iker Casillas yet again. The first goalkeeper to captain his country to victory in both the European Championship and the World Cup will equal – injuries permitting – Spain's appearances record in November's Wembley friendly against England.

That is due to be the Real Madrid man's 126th senior international, which will pull him level with the mark set by former Athletic Bilbao and Barcelona keeper Andoni Zubizarreta. Number 125 was Spain's Euro 2012 qualifier against the Czech Republic.

Wembley would be an appropriate venue for the 30-year-old Casillas as it was where he made his first representative appearance for his country, in a youth international.

In an era which has seen the collapse of most foreign-player restrictions and

Local hero...Casillas

the world market open up for the richest clubs, Madrid fans take a great pride in Casillas as a local boy who made good.

His height and strength have served him well, and more than made up for the odd lapse of concentration. Honours thus far include those 2010 World Cup and Euro 2008 successes – he was voted best keeper in South Africa – plus one FIFA and two UEFA youth titles, one Club World Cup, two Champions Leagues, one European Super Cup, four league titles, one Spanish Cup and three Spanish Super Cups.

A string of personal awards include, perhaps surprisingly, only one Zamora trophy for best league keeper in Spain, but then there are surely more honours and recognition still to come.

Keir Radnedge

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Never underestimate football's capacity for incompetence

I came across the quote that follows – I call it "Claud's Rule" – some 50 years ago, since when I have found it extremely useful as an explanation of many a puzzling situation.

"It is almost always fatal to pin any faith to the belief that the professionals in any line, from newspaper proprietorship to the Field-Marshals, have much idea of what they are up to."

That is from *I, Claud*, the magnificent autobiography of the English journalist, Claud Cockburn. It has comfortably explained to me, over the years, pretty well all the jaw-dropping "how could that happen?" moments in football.

It doesn't do to stretch it too far; Cockburn is talking only about the bosses, the people who run things.

I can start with the people who have money: do they know what they're doing? The state of the world economy strongly suggests they don't, but I'm talking strictly about football. Does Roman Abramovich know what he's about? Do the Manchester City billionaires have a clue?

Well, Chelsea still can't win the Champions League title, and the coaches' revolving door there tells a tale of management that can't make up its mind. I have every reason to think that, with the same sort of money available, I'd have done at least as well as Roman at Stamford Bridge.

> "It is almost always fatal to pin any faith to the belief that the professionals in any line have much idea of what they are up to"

As for Man City, the Carlos Tevez saga shows a coach who couldn't handle a tricky situation and a management that seems to think its own internal inquiry will be seen by everyone as a model of judicial impartiality. So we thought the inquiry would find Roberto Mancini to blame, with the result that City stand to lose millions in the process of getting rid of Tevez. Brilliantly handled all round, I'd say. Of course I would have done better: if it had to be a choice between Mancini and Tevez, I'd have kept the player. I'd soon find another coach who didn't know what he was doing, no problem.

Still in the Premier League, can this possibly be? A £10million footballer such as Mikel Arteta, signed without having a medical examination? I mean, come on, Arsene Wenger.

Nor can the Germans be allowed to live down that episode right before the 1974 World Cup Final when referee Jack Taylor happened to notice that the corner flags were missing.

As for stadium builders, well, I'm not an architect but I think I could make sure that my new zillion-dollar arena didn't include seats with obstructed sight lines. Nor would I ever have allowed a stadium like the ridiculous Stadio delle Alpi to have been built, an "event" stadium posing as a soccer stadium which has now suffered its inevitable fate, to be blasted off the face of the earth. Should anyone be asking, I expect the same thing to happen – barring a massive structural redesign – to London's Olympic Stadium.

At the 1986 World Cup, right after Bulgaria had lost 2-0 to Argentina in the final game of the group stage, a sorrowful Ivan Vutzov, the Bulgarian coach, told the press how sad he was that his team was now on its way home. We wrote it all down and off we went – only to find out that evening that Bulgaria were still alive. They later sneaked into the next round as a third-place team, with two points and a minus-two goal difference.

Which brings me to the latest absurdity – South Africa celebrating in Nelspruit after qualifying for the African Nations Cup finals...only to find that coach Pitso Mosimane and his bosses didn't know the tournament's tie-break rules.

Satisfying proof that Claud's Rule is alive and well. WS

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"Argentina wants to play like Barcelona? I want to eat asado [barbecued meat] in Bulgaria but I can't"

Hristo Stoichkov on Argentina's struggle to get the best out of Lionel Messi

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

EUROPE

Swiss coach **MARCEL KOLLER** will take charge of Austria's national side in November. His last coaching job was at Bochum, who he left in September 2009.

Former Villarreal, Sevilla, Deportivo La Coruna and Athletic Bilbao boss **JOAQUIN CAPARROS**, who had a brief spell in charge of Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax in July, is Real Mallorca's new coach.

Former defender **NIKOS KOSTENOGLOU** replaced Manuel Jimenez as coach of AEK Athens. The 41-year-old was most recently in charge of fellow Greek side Larisa.

FRANTISEK STRAKA was named the new coach of Slavia Prague, despite his long association with bitter city rivals Sparta.

American businessman **THOMAS DIBENEDETTO** was confirmed as the 22nd president of Roma after his consortium took a controlling share in the Serie A club in August.

Bologna boss...Pioli

STEFANO PIOLI, who was released by Palermo just days before the start of the current season, became Serie A strugglers Bologna's fourth coach in the last 14 months.

STANISLAV CHERCHESOV – Russia's goalkeeper at the 1994 and 2002 World Cups – took charge of Terek Grozny, the Russian Premier League club who sacked Ruud Gullit as coach in June.

Former Steaua Bucharest midfielder **ILIE STAN**, who led Victoria Branesti to the Romanian top flight before stepping down in April, is the club's new coach.

Former Lokomotiv Sofia defender and assistant **ANTON VELKOV** was appointed coach of the cash-strapped Bulgarian club.

Freiburg signed former Germany defender **ANDREAS HINKEL**. The 29-year-old, who was capped 21 times, had been without a club since leaving Celtic in the summer.

CONCACAF

Following poor results in the CONCACAF Champions League group stage, Mexican coach **JOSE "PEPE" TREVINO** replaced Ramon Maradiaga in charge of Honduran clausura champions Motagua and former international midfielder **JAFET SOTO** took over from Alejandro Giuntini at Costa Rica's Herediano.

SOUTH AMERICA

Sporting Lisbon's Uruguayan midfielder **LUIS AGUIAR** returned to South America following his wife's complicated pregnancy. He will play domestic football in his homeland from January before returning to Portugal next season.

Former Xerez coach **NESTOR GOROSITO** returned to coach Argentinos Juniors for a second time.

Former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder **GILBERTO** joined Brazilian second-tier side Vitoria after his contract with Cruzeiro was cancelled. The 35-year-old made 35 appearances for the national team.

AFRICA

Former Tunisia national coach **BERTRAND MARCHAND** took charge of Raja Casablanca after a disappointing start to the new season saw them take just two points from their first three Moroccan league games.

Swedish coach **ROGER PALMGREN** replaced Manqoba Mngqithi in charge of struggling South African side AmaZulu.

ASIA

South Korea midfielder **KIM JUNG-WOO**, the second top scorer in this season's K-League with 15 goals, has rejoined Seongnam Ilhwa from military club Sangju Sangmu Phoenix after completing his national service.

Former Liverpool and England striker **ROBBIE FOWLER** was appointed player-caretaker coach of Muang Thong United in Thailand.

Coaching chance...Fowler

Returning...Stevens

Stevens back at Schalke

Dutch coach **HUUB STEVENS** has taken charge of Schalke for a second time. During his first spell, from 1996 to 2002, he led the German club to victory in the 1997 UEFA Cup.

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"With Milan we had a nice dinner, but we're still hungry"

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis claims his side have further ambitions after beating Milan

Transfers, sackings and loans

Anzhi sack coach, place Roberto Carlos in temporary charge

Big-spending Anzhi Makhachkala sacked coach **GADZHI GADZHIYEV** with the club seventh in the Russian Premier League, 11 points behind leaders Zenit St Petersburg. Gadzhiyev's assistant Andrei Gordeyev took temporary charge of first-team affairs, along with veteran Brazilian full-back Roberto Carlos. Strugglers Tom Tomsk and Amkar Perm also parted company with coaches **VALERY NEPOMNIASHCHY** and **RASHID RAKHIMOV** respectively.

Shown the door ...Gadzhiyev

EUROPE

BERND STANGE and **NIGEL WORTHINGTON** stood down as coaches of the Belarus and Northern Ireland national teams respectively at the end of the Euro 2012 qualifiers.

Bologna fired coach **PIERPAOLO BISOLI** after a 2-0 defeat at Udinese left the team bottom of Serie A.

MICHAEL LAUDRUP resigned as coach of Mallorca after his relationship with the Spanish club's owner, Lorenzo Serra Ferrer, became untenable. His decision came hours after assistant **ERIK LARSEN** was sacked for criticising Serra Ferrer.

MICHAEL OENNING was sacked as coach of Hamburg after overseeing the worst league start in the club's history. A 1-0 defeat at home to Borussia Monchengladbach left the club languishing at the foot of the Bundesliga with just one point from their opening six games.

Farewell Forest ...McClaren

Former England, Twente and Wolfsburg boss **STEVE McCLAREN** resigned as manager of English second-tier side Nottingham Forest.

ARNE FRIEDRICH had his contract with Wolfsburg terminated following an injury-plagued year. The 32-year-old defender, who has 82 Germany caps, joined the club in 2010, following Hertha Berlin's relegation.

RONI LEVY quit as coach of Steaua Bucharest after a 1-1 draw at AEK Larnaca in the Europa League.

Former Russia winger **ANDREI TIKHONOV** retired at the age of 40 after one final appearance, for Spartak Moscow against former club Krylya Sovetov Samara.

Dutch club De Graafschap sacked 26-year-old Liberia midfielder **DULEE JOHNSON** after he was involved in a traffic offence and refused to co-operate when police asked him to take a breathalyser test.

Switzerland striker **HAKAN YAKIN** announced his international retirement after scoring 20 goals in 87 appearances. The 34-year-old will join Lucerne club Bellinzona next season.

SOUTH AMERICA

After just one win in nine games, **JAVIER TORRENTE** resigned as coach of Newell's Old Boys following the 1-1 draw with Godoy Cruz. **PEDRO TROGLIO** has quit as coach of Argentinos Juniors after a 4-3 loss at Estudiantes left them 19th in the 20-team apertura championship.

Exit Newell's ...Torrente

Relegation-threatened Cruzeiro sacked coach **EMERSON AVILA** after just 22 days in charge and replaced him with Vagner Mancini, who had lost his job with another Brazilian side, Ceara, earlier in the month.

CONCACAF

Guadalajara demoted coach **JOSE LUIS REAL** to the youth team and replaced him with Fernando Quirarte after a 1-0 loss to Queretaro. Seven clubs have now changed coaches since the Mexican apertura began in late July.

AFRICA

Dutch coach **MART NOOIJ** returned to Holland after his contract with Mozambique's national team was not renewed following their failure to qualify for next year's African Nations Cup finals.

DR Congo midfielder **YOUSSOUF MULUMBU** announced his retirement from international football to concentrate on his career with his English club West Bromwich Albion.

Moroccan champions Raja Casablanca axed Romanian coach **ILIE BALACI** after just eight weeks in charge.

South African strugglers Golden Arrows dismissed German coach **ERNST MIDDENDORP** despite a 2-1 away win over Kaizer Chiefs.

ASIA

Newcastle Jets sacked coach **BRANKO CULINA** four days before their opening game of the new Australian A-League season.

Striker **FARHAD MAJIDI** announced his international retirement at the age of 35 despite being called up by Iran coach Carlos Queiroz for a training camp prior to the World Cup qualifier against Bahrain. Majidi said he wanted to give younger players a chance.

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Angry...Mancini tries in vain to get Tevez (far right) to come off the bench in Munich

Tevez row takes heat off Mancini's poor decision

That Carlos Tevez did, in fact, lamentably and unpardonably, refuse to quit the substitutes' bench for the pitch in Munich seems pretty well beyond doubt whatever his claims. Yet it is surely hard to feel much sympathy either with Manchester City or their outraged manager, Roberto Mancini.

Indeed, there would seem to be an element of rough justice in it all. You might almost say that the Tevez affair spared Mancini from the degree of criticism he might otherwise have received for his inexplicable decision to fling Kolo Toure into central defence when he had spent the previous eight months under suspension. Surely, the far safer choice was the usual incumbent, Joleon Lescott.

Toure, not remotely match fit, was inevitably exposed, but the whole City team seemed a notable example of the parts being greater than the whole.

As for so-called man management, the case of Craig Bellamy seems alarmingly indicative. Mancini, so far as one knows, has made no public attempt to rebut Bellamy's bitter account of the way he was treated; the way that, though he had serious problems with his knee which demanded a carefully cautious kind of training, Mancini insisted Bellamy train with the rest of the squad with no concessions. In the United States, where Bellamy felt obliged to bow to instruction, the knee predictably blew up badly.

For me, Bellamy, however stormy a petrel he may be, remains one of the most talented of British attackers. I am delighted to see him finding a billet, the second time around, with Liverpool.

> Mancini, as far as one knows, has made no public attempt to rebut Bellamy's bitter account of the way he was treated

The European Cup results of that week reflected dismally on the true qualities of our Greed Is Good League – which, alas, emerged as the Greed Is Not So Good League. Not only were City outplayed and brushed aside by Bayern but Manchester United, abjectly throwing away a 2-0 lead at home to modest Basle, were lucky in the end to scrape a humiliating 3-3 draw, thanks to Ashley Young's last-gasp header.

While I watched Arsenal labour to an undeserved victory at home to another modest team in Olympiakos, whose right-back hit the bar near the end with what could have been the equaliser, I still cannot understand what possessed Arsene Wenger to enlist the ponderous Per Mertesacker for a central defence which, still without its potential saviour Thomas Vermaelen, desperately needs pace and reliability.

Yet it does look as if that massive £12million fee paid to Southampton for teenage right-winger Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain may have been money well spent. He had a dazzling game against Olympiakos, scoring a spectacular first goal, and then hit all three for the England under-21 team in Iceland.

Rugby really is a game for hooligans

Long characterised satirically as a game for hooligans played by gentlemen, rugby union now looks no better than a game for hooligans played by hooligans. The long-standing hypocrisy of insisting on its moral superiority to soccer lies in tatters.

Not long ago we had the squalid scandal of Harlequins, once an exemplary club, being exposed as having deliberately drawn blood from a player – with their woman doctor involved – in the course of a match. And now we have the sordid exploits of the England rugby

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team contesting the world title in New Zealand. First, we had the crass and oafish Mike Tindall episode. Soon after having married the daughter of the Princess Royal, the England player was found with others of his ilk cavorting in a bar that put on, heaven help us, a dwarf-throwing contest. Tindall, meanwhile, who had, it seemed, imbibed to some purpose, was entwined with a blonde who turned out to be an old acquaintance. Hardly mitigating circumstances, and it also transpired that Tindall had lied about the contretemps.

Substantially worse was the loutish behaviour of three other England players – James Haskell, Dylan Hartley and Chris Ashton – who crudely and cruelly robbed a tiny hotel worker of her walkie-talkie, then, when she attempted to get it back, taunted and jeered at her. One of them, I believe, was an ex-pupil from a leading public school in Wellington, though he was expelled from there.

But he was not, one emphasises, what so many millionaire footballers are today: an uneducated boy from a working-class background who suddenly finds himself making a fortune and often, as I'm the first to concede, behaving as disgracefully.

As for the old fatuity of rugger being superior to soccer, in that its players always defer to the referee and his decisions, this surely has much to do with the fact that rugby referees are notoriously permissive. The louche behaviour of so many footballers can hardly be defended, but for rugby to strike a pose of moral superiority is absurd.

Dopes of 1966 pale in comparison with 1954

Ironic indeed. Here we are being told that the West Germany team which contested the 1966 World Cup Final against England were guilty of using, in three instances, the banned substance ephedrine.

A letter written in November 1966 by Mihailo Andrejevic, chairman of FIFA's medical committee, to Dr Max Danz, then president of the West German Athletics Federation, tells that slight traces of ephedrine were found in three German players, though none was impugned. It was discovered as the result of the first World Cup tournament in which dope tests were enforced, under the supremely efficient and professional aegis of my old friend Dr Alan Bass, previously chief medical officer at Arsenal.

Yet this is surely of minor, even trivial, significance with what the Germany team did on their way to winning the

World champions...but there is a suspicion that West Germany's 1954 triumph was tainted

> One German player after another went down with jaundice, prompting suspicion of the after-effects of injected drugs

World Cup in Switzerland in 1954, when they dramatically recovered from a 2-0 deficit versus Hungary in the Final to win 3-2. Not long after that game, one German player after another went down with jaundice, prompting deep suspicion that they were suffering the after-effects of injected drugs – though it would be a great many years before a dressing-room attendant disclosed that syringes had been found in their dressing room below floor level.

Since there was no drug control at the time, the Germans escaped unscathed with the World Cup. Which does make the everlasting debate over whether Geoff Hurst's goal in the 1966 Final was valid seem somewhat marginal.

Shed no tears for Blazer

So, a hardly fond farewell to Chuck Blazer, general-secretary of CONCACAF who has stepped down and wants, he says, to face "new challenges".

Quite why he should have blown the whistle on his odious CONCACAF superior, Jack Warner, when he had no intention of remaining in office - which he can certainly, with his wealth, afford to – who can say? You may remember that he and FIFA'S Jerome Valcke were denounced as liars by a judge in a New York court when trying on behalf of FIFA to deprive Mastercard of World Cup finals rights in favour of VISA. It scarcely did Valcke any harm since, after a brief period of suspension, he re-emerged, butterfly like, from the FIFA chrysalis, as a top executive under Sepp Blatter. Dismally significant was the fact that the member associations passively and placidly accepted his promotion. So it goes.

Rooney, a supremely talented lout

Wayne Rooney, it must sadly be recorded, is a supremely talented lout, though it was somewhat crass of Fabio Capello to declare before the match in Montenegro that there was no sign of his being affected by the so recent arrest of his father and uncle on allegations of match manipulation. How could it not affect him, or any son and nephew? Whether this was good reason to keep him out of the game was another matter.

No one would have thanked Capello had he taken that risk, and Rooney, far and away the most gifted member of a largely modest England squad, played a crucial part in both England goals. Now England will miss him at the start of the coming European finals in which, frankly, with or without him, one sees very scant hope of ultimate success.

By and large, critics have been kind to England's split personality, emphasising how splendidly they had taken the game to a plainly cautious Montenegro in the first half. Alas, football matches have a second half as well and it became all too embarrassingly clear that Montenegro, encouraged by scoring at that delicate psychological moment just before half-time, had shed any delusions of inferiority and were prepared, you might even say, to call England's bluff, surge into attack and show up the weaknesses of the opposing defence. Phil Jones was fortunate not to concede a penalty; Gary Cahill and John Terry didn't dominate.

The ebullient form of Ashley Cole, obliged to leave the field injured, was some consolation. The prospect of getting the invaluable playmaker Jack Wilshere and Steven Gerrard back for the finals raises some hope.

As for Rooney, sent off in Gelsenkirchen and now in Montenegro, he is plainly irreplaceable. And incorrigible. WS

Crazy...Rooney kicks out at Montenegro's Miodrag Dzudovic and will be banned for the start of the European Championship finals

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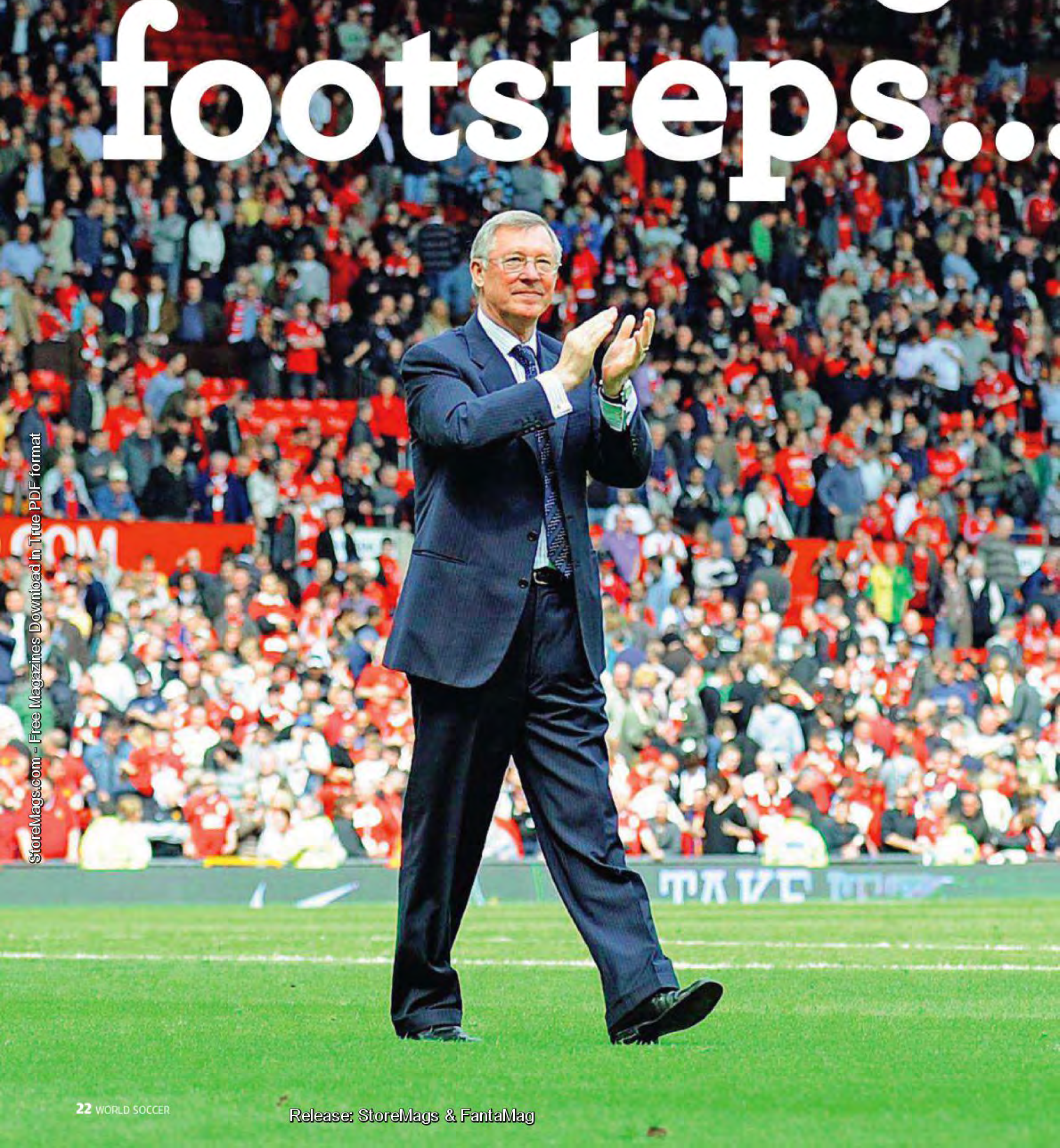

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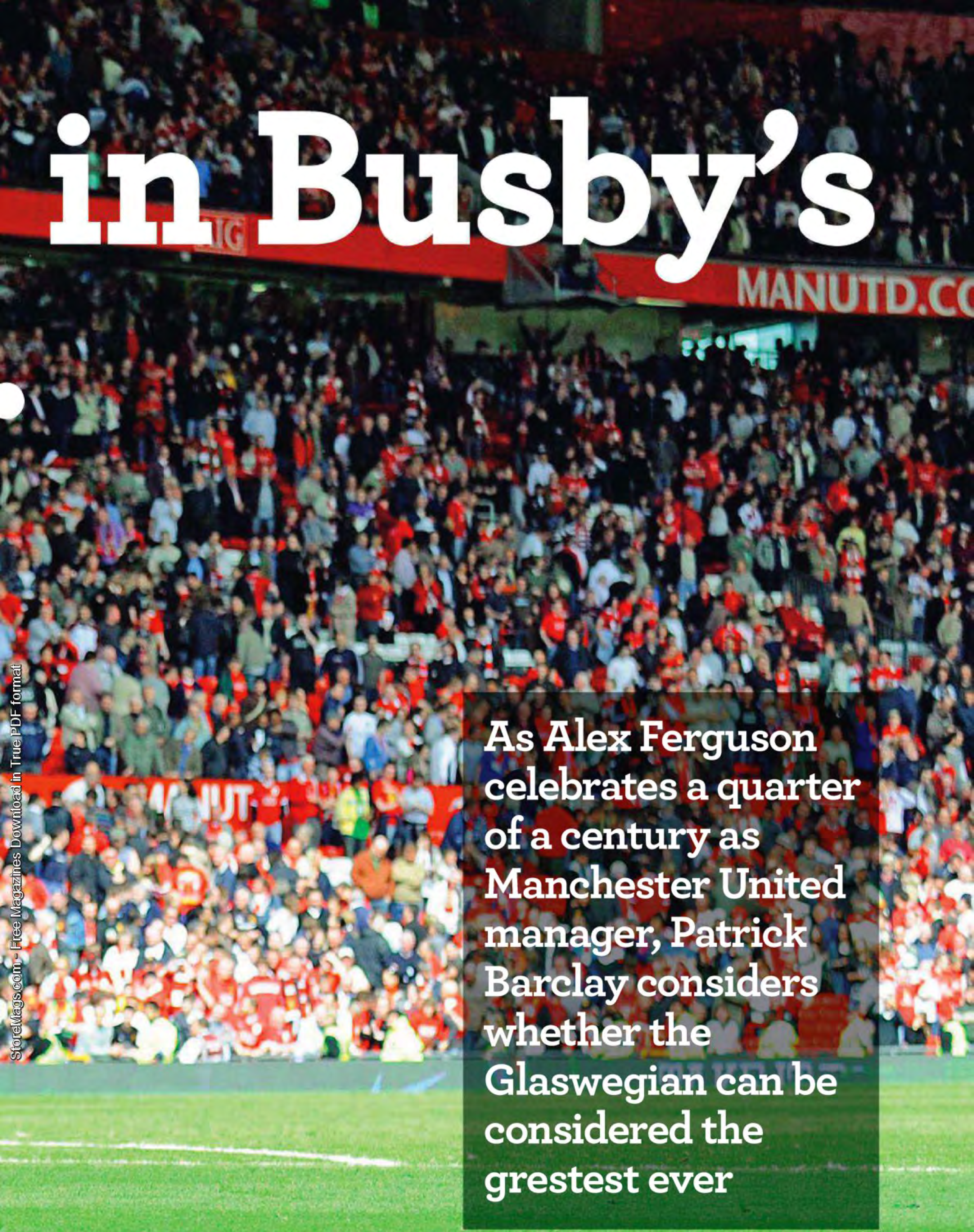

As Alex Ferguson celebrates a quarter of a century as Manchester United manager, Patrick Barclay considers whether the Glaswegian can be considered the grestest ever

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Whatever happens to Alex Ferguson between now and retirement, he will be ranked among the world's greatest football managers of his lifetime. He also deserves to be associated with the concurrent decline in his profession's public behaviour; after all, there is no legitimacy in celebrating a unique quarter century of one-club achievement unless we take the rough with the smooth.

We can best judge Ferguson by measuring him against two fellow sons of industrial Scotland, products of a relatively small area that also provided the game with Bill Shankly, founder of the modern Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish, heir to its traditions, and George Graham, who not only made Arsenal a formidable unit but also provided the legacy of defensive discipline on which Arsene Wenger rebuilt. The other two are Jock Stein and Matt Busby.

Stein was Ferguson's friend, mentor and, in terms of management style, his hero. With Celtic he won nine consecutive Scottish championships and brought the European title to Britain for the first time, a year before Busby supervised Manchester United's triumph over Benfica at Wembley in 1968. But Busby's feat, given that he had nearly died along with several members of perhaps his most potent team in an air crash near Munich a decade earlier, gave United a place in football's heart as well as its history, helping to make the club a global institution.

Without all that Busby did – first in reconstructing United from the rubble

United... Ferguson with Busby

left by the Second World War, then in devising (with his extraordinary assistant Jimmy Murphy) a youth-development strategy that, even now, would make a football man's jaw drop, and ultimately in making United synonymous with glamour by incorporating in his sides such spectacular attackers as George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton – there would have been no special tradition for Ferguson to follow.

For Ferguson to have followed it nonetheless, and in such detail that the current crop of young players in

Tough start...Ferguson (right) began his United career with a 2-0 defeat against Oxford United

Introduction...United unveil their new boss

The double...a league and Cup winner in 1996

European champions... victory in Moscow in 2008

First success...winning the FA Cup in 1990

the United team merit comparison, however inexact, with Busby's Babes, is remarkable enough. To have added 12 English titles to Busby's five, and two European Cups to Busby's crowning glory, is to leave no doubt: Ferguson has proved to be a winning machine built, like the ships of his native Clydeside, to last. He has been a football man of almost unparalleled durability.

When my biography of Ferguson was first published last year, I was criticised for writing that, unlike Brian Clough and, arguably, Jose Mourinho, he was not a genius. My contention was that Clough, in partnership with Peter Taylor, had taken

Ferguson's ability to adjust to the circumstances of each passing age represents genius of a sort

relatively small and struggling clubs – first Derby County, then Nottingham Forest – to the English title more quickly than Ferguson at United and at a fraction of the net cost in transfer fees (not to mention a second successive European title within five years of arriving at the City Ground). I stick to that argument while conceding that Ferguson's ability to stay the course by adjusting to the circumstances of each passing age represents genius of a sort.

In this sense Ferguson has risen above Stein, who died almost by Ferguson's side in the Scotland dugout in Cardiff in 1985, succumbing to heart failure as his team snatched the draw that kept them in the World Cup. Stein, though his career had started impressively with Dunfermline Athletic, had enjoyed almost all his success at Celtic. Ferguson came to United having already done sensational things at Aberdeen, breaking up the Rangers/Celtic duopoly as had seldom happened before – and has never happened since.

Aberdeen, like United, had finished

Fateful night...Stein (left) and Ferguson in Cardiff

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second in their league in the last full season before Ferguson arrived. So Ferguson, unlike Clough, never fixed anything that was utterly broken. But the scale of his achievement at both Pittodrie and Old Trafford was unprecedented. He not only guided Aberdeen to three Scottish championships but also fashioned them into winners of the European Cup-winners Cup in 1983, when they overcame Real Madrid in Gothenburg – with Stein there as Ferguson's guest, the pupil recognising his master.

The psychology of football was where Stein proved most influential over Ferguson. In 1967, the day before Stein's Celtic beat Internazionale in the European Cup Final, the two sides trained on the pitch at the National Stadium in Lisbon and an argument broke out between Stein and Inter's eminent manager Helenio Herrera. Stein had provoked it with the intention of conveying to his players the notion that they need be no more frightened of Inter's players than Stein was of Herrera.

Softening process

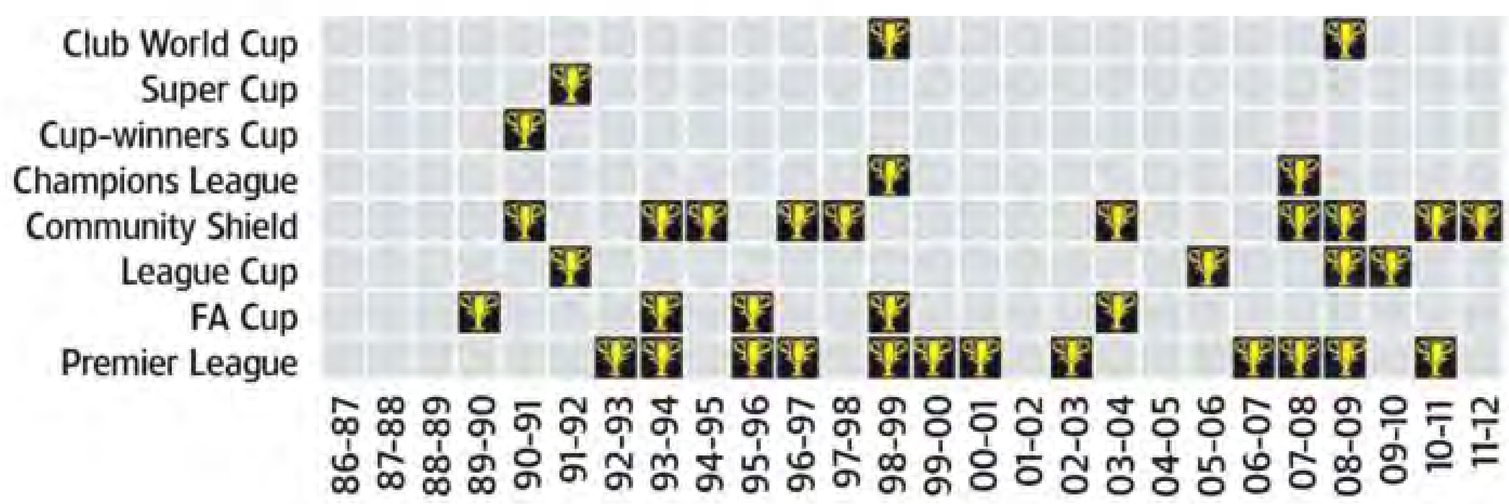
Sixteen years on, the wily Stein prescribed a less dramatic gesture in Gothenburg. He suggested that Ferguson give a bottle of the best Scotch whisky to his counterpart, Alfredo Di Stefano, on whom Ferguson had first clapped awestruck eyes as a Glasgow teenager watching the mesmeric European Cup Final of 1960. The whisky was intended as part of a softening process, to advance the idea that little Aberdeen were just grateful to be sharing an occasion with Real and no true threat.

Whether Di Stefano swallowed it – the idea, not the whisky – is unknown. But Aberdeen delivered a most assertive performance. Ferguson had made his players believe in themselves, as he had done ever since he arrived at Aberdeen, and resolved to banish the inferiority complex that perennially hampered challengers to Rangers and Celtic. This involved convincing them not only of their own capacities but the malign intent of the press, referees and any other obstacle they might encounter.

To cast Aberdeen as victims, or at least underdogs, was one thing. But somehow Ferguson has managed to use the same tactic at Manchester United, making the players and supporters of a club that considers itself to be the biggest in the world – despite evidence most recently furnished by Barcelona – to believe that they are downtrodden by all the media except MUTV, which Ferguson has turned into football's equivalent of *Pravda* before Glasnost, not to mention referees and even the compilers of the Premier League fixtures when United have to perform

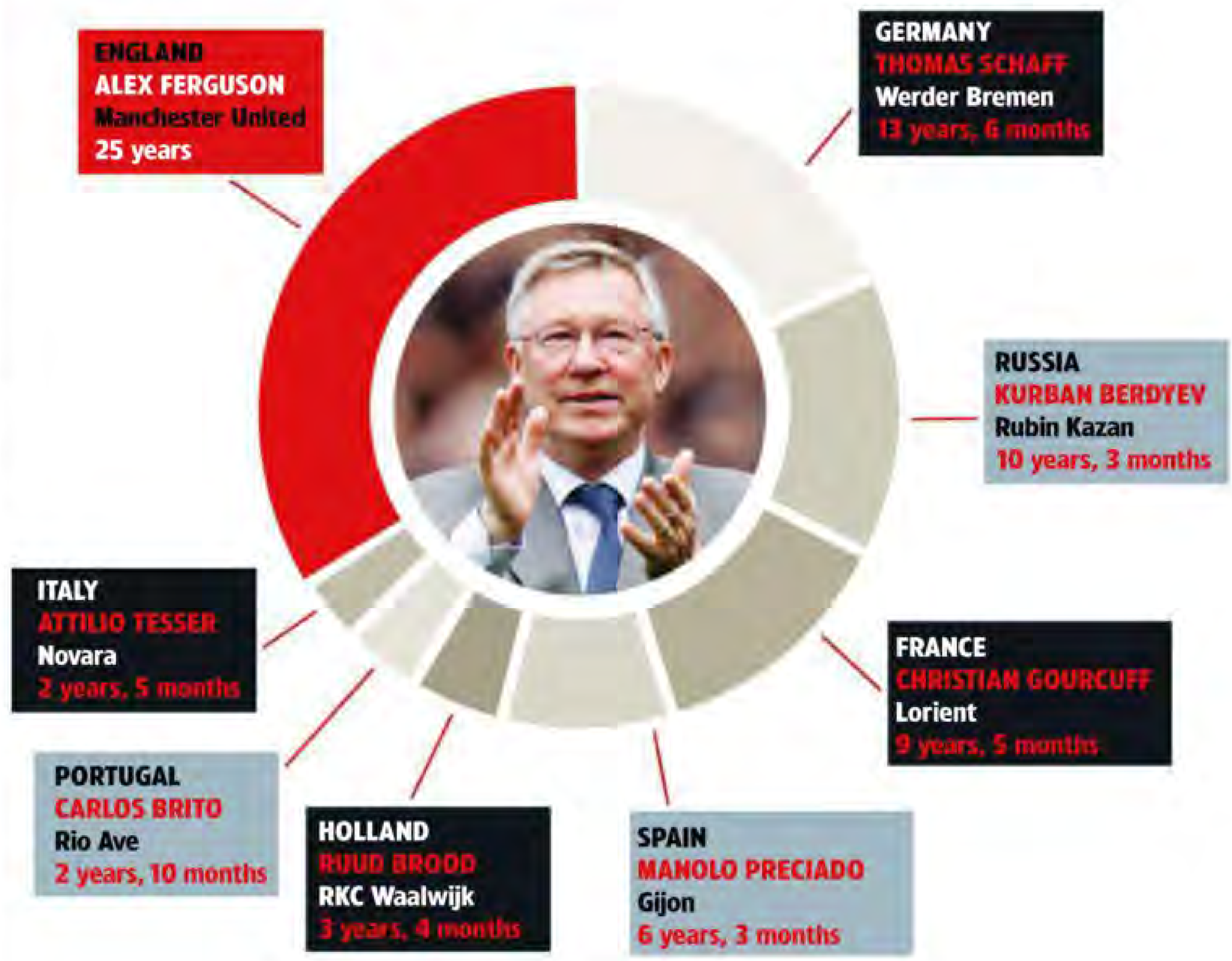
THE OLD TRAFFORD TROPHY CABINET

What Ferguson has won at Manchester United



EUROPE'S LONGEST-SERVING BOSS

How Ferguson's reign at Manchester United compares to his contemporaries in Europe's major leagues



OTHER LONG-SERVING COACHES IN EUROPE

UKRAINE	Vitaliy Kvartsyanyi	(Volyn Lutsk)	10 years, 10 months
SWEDEN	Nanne Bergstrand	(Kalmar)	9 years, 10 months
AUSTRIA	Franz Lederer	(Mattersburg)	7 years
TURKEY	Abdullah Avci	(Istanbul BB)	6 years, 3 months
BELGIUM	Jan Ceulemans	(Westerlo)	4 years, 4 months
GREECE	Nikos Karageorgiou	(Ergotelis)	4 years, 4 months
ROMANIA	Cristian Pustai	(Gaz Metan Medias)	4 years, 4 months
CZECH REP	Frantisek Komnacky	(Jablonec)	4 years, 1 month
SCOTLAND	Derek McInnes	(St Johnstone)	4 years

domestically too close to important fixtures in Europe.

That mind games learned from Stein have been overused by Ferguson to the point of unhealthiness was reflected last season in a five-match touchline ban imposed by the FA after he suggested that the referee Martin Atkinson, who had been in charge of a United defeat at Chelsea, had been biased. This included the invoking of a two-match suspended sentence which had been imposed after he had accused another referee, Alan Wiley, of not being fit enough to officiate in the Premier League.

No wonder Ferguson gets on so well with Mourinho, who is regarded as a possible successor. Although he has never strayed as far across the line as the Real Madrid coach did after the Champions League semi-final first leg against Barcelona last season, when Mourinho invented a conspiracy among UEFA referees to help the Catalan club, Ferguson has always put the advancement of his club's interests - whether at Aberdeen or United - above the reputation of the game as a whole. Others, sad to say, have followed him in muddying the pool. Above all Mourinho.

This is not to blame Ferguson for all the disrespect for authority that has grown, notably in English football over the past 25 years; others, latterly Ferguson's erstwhile arch-rival Arsene Wenger, have brought referees into unjust question. It is merely to observe a coincidence. And to be naturally drawn back to the comparison with Busby, under whom United became loved substantially because their figurehead so clearly loved and respected both the game and his fellow man.

Standing supreme

Ferguson benefited from the counsel of Busby in his early years at United. He once, disarmingly, told me of days when he would arrive at Old Trafford and know that Sir Matt, who retained a little office at the stadium, was around because he could smell the pipe smoke. "I was desperate to speak to Matt," Ferguson said, recalling a time when the media and supporters were unconvinced of his merits and even self-doubt that he could make United replace the Liverpool founded by Shankly as the most successful institution in the English game beset him.

Now Ferguson stands supreme. Most United supporters and many across the world would rate him above all managers - including the eminent figures with whom he has jousted such as Wenger, Mourinho, Marcello Lippi and Ottmar Hitzfeld - because of his longevity, his ability to sense trends and adjust to them (no manager has used the squad system more cleverly), his artful blending of the home-produced and bought into a unit without factionalism or destructive jealously, and his distillation of what is necessary to win, all of which leaves no doubt that the boy who stood on the Hampden Park slopes in 1960 has developed into a footballing intellectual of machiavellian proportions. He even seems to have undergone, in the approach to his 70th birthday, a sort of reverse aging.

He has made Manchester United bigger than ever before and been rewarded with not just money and garlands but such status that few will ever call him to account for his loyal support for the disliked owners from Florida, the Glazers. But has Ferguson made United better than ever before?

It might be unfair to compare even his finest teams with the universally adored Barcelona, who took United apart in the most recent Champions League Final (and were saluted by Ferguson in one of his more generous moments), for Pep Guardiola's charges are truly exceptional.

Like the Busby Babes who perished at Munich in 1958, just as people were beginning to believe they might eventually eclipse the great Real of European football's origins. A reminder that, for all that Ferguson has extended and refurbished Manchester United, it was Busby who built it. And Busby who was the better man. WS

Patrick Barclay is the author of Football – Bloody Hell! The Biography of Alex Ferguson *(Yellow Jersey)*

What the world thinks of Alex Ferguson...

● *Corriere dello Sport*
"To meet with Ferguson is to meet with a legend because it is reductive to call him merely the manager of Manchester United. Along with such as Matt Busby, he has written the history of this great club, a history that of both triumph and tragedy."

● Ottmar Hitzfeld
"I used to love our ritual cup of tea before games between my side and his at Old Trafford. I never had such warm and human moments with another coach in my career. We were leading up to a fight but, in spite of everything, we made our small talk in a relaxed atmosphere."

● Edin Dzeko
"Sir Alex is a one-off. He's been the father of United's success for so long now. Coaches usually get worn down and then are replaced. Not him. A man of unbelievable authority. Without him Manchester United would be just another club."

● Didier Deschamps
"He's the last of a certain breed of coach cum manager. No one will ever dominate a club like he has at United for the past 25 years. What I like about him is that he is flexible. When 4-4-2 wasn't working for him in the Champions League, he did something drastic about it, turning his team into fantastic counter-attackers."

● Marcello Lippi
"I'm proud to be a friend of his. Producing winning teams over such a long period is testament to his strong character, loyalty, judgement and desire."

● Diego Maradona
"It's a joke when Ferguson talks about [Carlos] Tevez. He's only thought of as an important coach because he always has had great players."

Still going strong...last season's Premier League

Many across the world would rate Ferguson above all other managers

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Exclusive reports from our worldwide network of correspondents

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The *barra brava* hooligans remain a problem to which the country can still find no solution.

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There is sympathy all round for Schalke boss Ralf Rangnick, who quits due to nervous exhaustion.

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Real Betis and Levante both make surprisingly good starts to the new La Liga season.

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Victory over Portugal sees Morten Olsen's side reach the finals of yet another major tournament.

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Les Bleus leave it late to see off Bosnia in Paris and claim their place at Euro 2012

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Newly promoted Novara shock Internazionale and cost coach Gian Piero Gasperini his job.

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A two-week interval between qualifiers plays havoc with the island's World Cup dream.

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South Africa are just one of the big boys who will be absent from next year's national Cup finals.

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JOEL RICHARDS
in Buenos Aires

Meet the *barra brava*

The country still has no answer to its hooligan problem

Midway through last year's *superclasico* at River Plate's Monumental stadium, a sea of flares lit up the Boca Juniors end. It was a stunning sight. "That day was brilliant from start to finish," says Pablo. "There was a great atmosphere and what we did with the flares was genius. The police were going mad, they couldn't understand how we got them into the ground."

The atmosphere at games is one of Argentinian football's strongest selling points. The colour, the flags, the drums and the singing are intoxicating. And, as Pablo explains, this atmosphere is mostly coordinated by the *barra brava* – a group whose disparate activities mean they resist straightforward labels such as diehard fans, ultras or hooligans.

On the terraces behind the goals they dictate who stands where, which songs are sung, and bring the drums and the brass section. The *barra brava* taking up position in the middle of the terrace just before kick-off is almost as important as the teams running out on to the pitch. They run the party, and they know it.

As Pablo (not his real name) talks about a Boca Juniors' *barra brava* called La Doce ("the 12th player"), of which he forms part, laughing about how they hid the flares inside the drums that day at River, there are two recurrent themes: the match-day fiesta – "It's great fun," he says – and money. "Lots of money," he admits, puffing out his cheeks. La Doce, for example, make enough money for around 40 or 50 members to live on.

Money is mostly made from match-day operations, all of which require complicity from clubs and the authorities – who range from national and local government to the police. The blueprint is copied at clubs across the country. Ticket touting, overseeing car parking near the stadium, controlling stalls selling shirts, burgers and drinks are all staple sources of income. Providing "security" at events held at the stadium, is another favourite.

Other well-documented forms of making money include demanding first-team players make contributions. Sports daily *Ole* has reported clubs' *barra brava* receiving percentages of player transfers. Non-governmental organisation Salvemos al Futbol ("let's save football"), meanwhile, discovered Newell's Old Boys *barra brava* controlled the club's youth-team system under former president Eduardo Lopez, who left in 2008 after 14 years in charge. At the time, only one family spoke out about the demands for payment to allow their son to play.

Inevitably, with potential monthly profits running into tens of thousands of pounds, violent battles to control the *barra brava* have become commonplace.

Before one of the final hearings in the trial for the murder of Gonzalo Acro, his sister Romina says of her brother: "He was very quiet; he lived at home with the family. He trained a lot, practising martial arts, but he was *tranquilo*."

> Violent battles to control the *barra brava* have become commonplace

Gonzalo Acro was a member of Los Borrachos del Tablon ("the drunks in the stands"), the River Plate *barra brava*. "But he wasn't one of the leaders," says Romina. "He was never named in the press like the others were."

The "others" were Adrian Rousseau, and Alan and William Schlenker, who ran Los Borrachos del Tablon. For their part-time jobs, physique and approach to controlling the terraces, they were known as "the bouncers" and were co-opted by the club to clean up the terraces.

A split between Rousseau and Alan Schlenker, however, left the former in charge of the extremely lucrative River Plate *barra brava*, and Acro sided with Rousseau. The tension between the two groups boiled over in high-profile mass brawls, leading to five people – including Acro – being banned from the club.

Through his martial arts training, Acro had struck up a friendship with the boxer Miguel Cotto, a River Plate fan. In early 2007, around the time Acro was thrown out of the club, he travelled to Puerto

Forced out...Independiente coach Mohamed

Fiorelegg.com

Prelude to tragedy...River Plate *barra brava* members (from left) Adrian Rousseau, Gonzalo Acro and William Schlenker (in dark glasses), a year before Acro's murder

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Rico with a view to becoming part of Cotto's training team. In April 2007 Acro returned home and four months later he was shot dead as he left a gym.

The Acro family were shattered. His mother did not attend the five-month long trial, while Alberto, his father, said: "I died with my son." Romina Acro campaigned for justice but had "no help, especially not from River Plate". In September, four years after Acro's murder, five life-sentences and one 10-year sentence were handed out for the crime. The Schlenker brothers were both given life as the intellectual authors of the murder – just one of a total that has now reached 257.

The Acro murder trial confirmed suspicions and rumours about the relationship between different *barra brava*. Pablo "Bebote" Alvarez, head of the Independiente *barra brava*, was alleged to have been the go-between in supplying the gun used to kill Acro.

Funeral March

After a 1-0 home defeat by Boca in September, the Independiente *barra brava* left the terraces to voice their disapproval outside the home side's changing room. While they waited for the squad to emerge, they played the *Funeral March*. The following day coach Antonio Mohamed resigned, admitting: "I didn't make this decision. The *barra brava* made it."

Mohamed is one of the few to have spoken out about the *barra brava*. Monica Nizzardo is another. She now runs Salvemos al Futbol, but became involved in football when she was invited to take her late father's place on the board of Atlanta, who were a third-division club. She says: "I started realising that if I didn't speak up about everything I was seeing, I was becoming an accomplice. They'd even steal the 200 pesos (£30) made from the five-a-side pitches where the members play." Nizzardo says she had to act when a *barra brava* member entered a board meeting armed with a hammer. She complained to the police – and is still the only board member of a club in Argentina to have done so over *barra brava* intimidation.

The creation of Hinchadas Unidas Argentinas ("united Argentinian fans") before the 2010 World Cup – a straight swap of political support for paid trips to South Africa – is the clearest example of the relationship between the government and the *barra brava*, but also pointed to the size of the problem. Politicians and the powerful trade unions have tight links with the *barra brava*, while the clubs also rely on obedient voters come election time.

"Someone will no doubt say that their club doesn't have one," says Nizzardo. "But put it this way – 99.8 per cent of clubs in Argentina have a *barra brava*." WS

POWER OF THE *BARRA BRAVA*

In October 2010, a Workers Party activist, Mariano Ferreyra, was shot dead during a protest in support of laid-off railway workers. The chief suspect in his murder was a well-known *barra brava*, from the modest second-division side Defensa y Justicia, who had been sent as part of a mob to break up the protest.

From the lower leagues to clubs that have won the Libertadores Cup, *barra brava* are ubiquitous in Argentinian football. City rivalries, such as Newell's Old Boys against Central in Rosario, are particularly fierce, but the traditional big five have the strongest and largest *barra brava*.

Ticker-tape welcome... Boca's La Doce

Red army...Independiente's La Barra del Rojo

Boca Juniors
La Doce
Named after Victoriano Caffarena, the only supporter to travel with the team on their 1925 tour to Europe. The squad named him "the 12th player".

River Plate
Los Borrachos del Tablon
Developed into a powerful and wealthy *barra* in the 2000s. A string of sell-out concerts at the Monumental stadium guarantees regular income.

Independiente
La Barra del Rojo
Enjoy lose ties to the country's most powerful trade union, the CGT. Involved in shootings when the body of late president Juan Domingo Peron was moved in 2006.

Racing
La Guardia Imperial
Owners of one of the largest flags in the world, stretching 250metres across the terraces. Like many of their counterparts, in recent years they have visited first-team training sessions to "demand" improved results.

San Lorenzo
La Gloriosa Butteler
Named after a nearby plaza where the fans traditionally met up. Diego Maradona once praised their creative songs, while their rivalry with neighbours Huracan is among the most dangerous in the country.

Flying the flag...La Guardia Imperial of Racing

Monumental noise...River Plate's Los Borrachos del Tablon

Riot of colour...San Lorenzo's La Gloriosa Butteler get in the mood

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NICK BIDWELL
in Munich

Rallying round Rangnick

German football expresses its sympathy for Schalke boss who quit due to nervous exhaustion

Feeling the pressure...Rangnick

This season's Bundesliga is unlikely to have a bigger, more emotionally intense story than that of Schalke coach Ralf Rangnick, who stepped down because of psychological burn-out. The shock announcement came via a club communiqué which, for a few hours on September 22, blew a hole in the country's wall-to-wall coverage of Pope Benedict's first official visit to Germany.

Known as "The Professor" for his scholarly manner when famously using a chalkboard to dissect tactics on a TV programme back in 1998, Rangnick has few equals when it comes to searing intellect and vision for the game. But even he had no answers to the nervous exhaustion which had taken hold of him. At Ulm, Stuttgart, Hanover, Hoffenheim and Schalke, the 53-year-old coach insisted on a fast-paced and direct attacking style of play. How ironic, then, he himself should end up running on empty.

"After a long period of reflection, I've come to the conclusion I need a break," explains Rangnick, who was only six months into his second spell as Schalke boss. "The decision was a particularly hard one to reach. However, at the moment, I simply don't have the energy levels to successfully lead this team."

While the Gelsenkirchen club's form in the first six weeks of the season was nothing to write home about - nine points from a possible 18 - Rangnick's job was never at risk. After home and away victories over Internazionale in the quarter-finals of last season's Champions League, and lifting the 2011 German Cup, he still had plenty of credit in the bank, and his relationship with chairman Clemens Tonnies and director of sport Horst Heldt could not have been better.

Although the archetypal crisis club, where rabid infighting has always gone on behind the scenes, Schalke did not play a part in Rangnick's issues. What eventually ate away at his mental and physical resources were the stresses and strains of 16 years as a head coach: the permanent pressure for results, the ever-increasing demands of the media and the never-ending fight to stay true to one's ideals. Above all, Rangnick is a perfectionist and, for such, release valves are extremely hard to find.

> "At the moment I simply don't have the energy levels to lead this team"
> **Ralf Rangnick**

Rangnick has rightly come in for praise from all quarters for his honesty. He and Schalke did not concoct some cock-and-bull story about no longer being on the same wavelength or the team needing fresh leadership. Instead, they told the truth, and for that they should be commended.

"It's absolutely amazing that someone in great personal difficulty was able to show his strength," said Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes, whose side had won 2-0 at Schalke a few days earlier. "It was not simple for him to come out and tell the world what he was experiencing. For that he deserves the utmost respect."

Two years since clinically depressed Hanover and Germany keeper Robert Enke took his own life, German football has definitely moved on. Once upon a time, in this most macho of environments, the discussion of mental health issues was absolutely taboo, with sufferers knowing they would be deemed weak and unfit for purpose if the truth ever emerged. Not any more though. Now such problems are approached humanely - and not before time.

"The lesson to be learned is to look at sport as sport and not give it excessive importance," says Heynckes. "You have to accept defeats as well as victories and everyone in the game has to show respect to others. Why shouldn't Ralf Rangnick return to football after some time out? He's a good coach."

Schalke have replaced Rangnick with Huub Stevens, who led the club to the 1997 UEFA Cup. Who knows if he will be as successful this time around, but what is certain is that the authoritarian and defensively-orientated Dutchman will bring a very different style with him.

Rangnick is not the only one in the Bundesliga with demons to conquer. In Munich, Bayern's Brazilian defender Breno was in jail, suspected of setting fire to his own home, before being released on bail. Bought from Sao Paulo for £10million in 2007, the 22-year-old has never lived up to expectations in Bavaria and reportedly has depression.

"To lock up a young man with a fragile psyche is absurd," argued Bayern president Uli Hoeness. "He cannot flee without his passport. I wouldn't have thought this sort of thing possible in Germany." Alas, it is. WS

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SPAIN

SID LOWE
in Madrid

Early leaders stir the pot

Real Betis and Levante cause a shock in La Liga

Six games into the new season and La Liga threw up its first big clash at the top of the table: first versus third. But forget Real Madrid and Barcelona. As October began, it was table-topping Real Betis at home to Levante that caught the eye.

Levante were 1-0 winners, but while the clash may have been just a quirk, it was a significant one and spoke well of two teams expected to be struggling against relegation and confronted by economic crisis and administration. It also spoke well of the Spanish league and was the perfect response to Sevilla president Jose Maria Del Nido, who had led a rebellion aimed at a redistribution of television money

Del Nido argued that, between them, Madrid and Barcelona were guaranteed to win every league title forever more, and by a huge margin, claiming: "The league is prostituted, the league is shit – the biggest pile of crap in Europe."

His argument was lent weight on the opening weekend when Madrid and Barca won 6-0 and 5-0 respectively. But after just four games, Madrid had already dropped five points and been unable to score against Racing Santander and Levante – the latter beating them 1-0 at the Ciutat de Valencia stadium. Barcelona had dropped points in both their away games, with 2-2 draws at Real Sociedad and Valencia.

With Barcelona second and Madrid fifth, Betis sat proudly on top of the pile, but with coach Pepe Mel pointing out: "As soon as people start eulogising us, we're nothing."

However, people had been right to eulogise his side. Betis were promoted in the summer and, despite having a huge fan base, were widely expected to struggle, not least because of the institutional and economic crisis that has affected them over the last few years.

When owner Manuel Ruiz de Lopera tried to sell his shares in the club, a series of supposed buyers emerged and then disappeared amid suspicions over the real nature of the deal and the relationship between Lopera and the prospective investors. Then Lopera had shares embargoed by a judge as part of an investigation into allegations he had been stealing from the club. There were protest marches and confrontations, but at least Betis were forced to confront their economic crisis.

This summer's La Liga players' strike focused largely on £42million of unpaid wages – of which Betis alone accounted for £15m. Around £70m in debt, they entered into a process known as *Ley Concursal*, which involves filing for bankruptcy and leaving court-appointed administrators to run their affairs. The good news is that administration carries no sporting penalty – a situation which is about to change with a new law having just come into effect – while allowing Betis to legally not pay some of their debts.

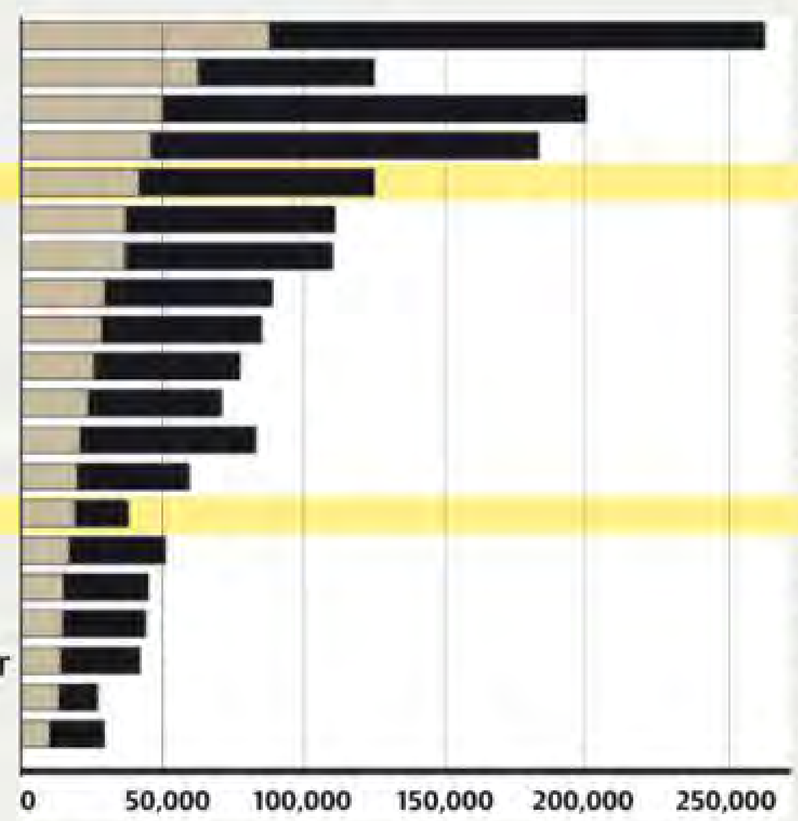
Tough at the top...Vicente Iborra of Levante (right) tussels with Real Betis' Jose Dorado in his side's 1-0 La liga win

There is now a new structure in place, with former player and club legend Rafael Gordillo chosen to preside over Betis. His appointment has helped unite fans, players and members, and brought some much-needed peace and stability. Promotion was clinched in style last season, with Betis proving not only the second division's outstanding side but also demonstrating their top-flight credentials by knocking first division sides Real Zaragoza and Getafe out of the Spanish Cup – in which they also beat Barcelona 3-1, although only after a 5-0 hammering in the first leg.

However, no one had expected them to top the table on their return. It was the first time they had led La Liga for 10 years, and by staying there despite a defeat by Getafe it was the first time they had been top for two weeks in a row since their one and only title-winning season back in 1935.

Betis' administrator-controlled budget obliges them to pay back £8.5m

LA LIGA ATTENDANCES 2011-12 (UP TO AND INCLUDING 14.10.11)



	TEAM	AVERAGE	TOTAL
1	Barcelona	87,666	263,000
2	Real Madrid	62,500	125,000
3	Atletico Madrid	50,000	200,000
4	Valencia	45,750	183,000
5	Real Betis	41,666	125,000
6	Athletic Bilbao	37,000	111,000
7	Sevilla	36,666	110,000
8	Espanyol	29,666	89,000
9	Real Zaragoza	28,333	85,000
10	Real Sociedad	25,833	77,500
11	Malaga	23,666	71,000
12	Sporting Gijon	20,750	83,000
13	Villarreal	19,833	59,500
14	Levante	19,000	38,000
15	Osasuna	17,000	51,000
16	Mallorca	15,000	45,000
17	Granada	14,666	44,000
18	Racing Santander	14,000	42,000
19	Rayo Vallecano	13,500	27,000
20	Getafe	9,833	29,500

a year to their creditors, and they spent just £1.5m in the summer on a squad with little first-division experience. To put it into context, their central midfield three of Benat, Iriney and Salva Sevilla previously played for Conquense, Almeria and Salamanca respectively. Yet Betis deserved their top spot, deservedly winning their first four games. And they did so not through aggression or defensiveness – they committed fewer fouls than any other side – but by scoring more than anyone barring Madrid and Barcelona.

Led by their charismatic coach, they have proved neat and tidy in possession, technically gifted and very bold, and have been a huge breath of fresh air for the Spanish top flight.

But if Betis' position was striking, Levante's was even more so. They beat Real Madrid by mastering the "other football", according to Jose Mourinho, who said: "I have to congratulate them because they were smart, they know how to provoke, how to act, how to not give the ball back...all that is football too."

Mourinho may have had a point, but you could also understand Levante's approach. As their captain Sergio Ballesteros put it: "We're just poor boys, Madrid need no sympathy."

Poor is an understatement. Last season, coach Luis Garcia admitted he did not use the normal player-tracking programme because it cost too much and the club could not afford it, even though it is just £2,500 a time. Sporting director Manolo Salvador talked about waiting until every other team had signed their players and then picking up the "scraps". He also revealed that Levante could not compete with many second-division clubs in wages, so often lost out on players.

> "We're just poor boys, Madrid need no sympathy"
> **Levante's Sergio Ballesteros after beating Real**

In four years they have only paid for one player – Felipe Caicedo – and they only did that in order to exercise their option to buy, so they could immediately sell him on. "Agents run away when they hear what we have to offer," Salvador says. The average annual salary at Levante is £250,000 – and Cristiano Ronaldo can make that in a week.

Survival was a miracle last year, thanks to a spectacular second half of the season after Levante looked dead and buried at the halfway mark. But that did not mean anyone expected them to play well this season. Their success had been based on unity and psychology, but Luis Garcia, the coach who made them tick, had left and was replaced by Juan Ignacio Martinez. Top scorer Caicedo had also gone, and the man who replaced him on loan from Sevilla, Aruna Kone, had scored just one La Liga goal in four years. All this, plus the fact that the team was a year older – which is significant when your goalkeeper and back four have a combined age of 170.

But there they were, beating Madrid, with Kone getting the goal, and sitting in third, striking a blow for the rest of the league – and helping prove there is life beyond the big two after all. **WS**

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JIM HOLDEN

Punching above their weight

Against all the odds, the Danes have again qualified for a major tournament

Through...Denmark players celebrate beating Portugal

When Denmark beat Portugal 2-1 to qualify for Euro 2012 it meant they had made it to the finals of 11 of the last 15 major tournaments – a record for a small nation with which only Uruguay can compare.

It is an astonishing success rate for a country of just five million people, and a tribute to both the long-term inspiration of the famous "Danish Dynamite" side of the 1980s and a coaching system that consistently develops high-class players.

The latest in a line that includes Allan Simonsen and Michael Laudrup is teenager Christian Eriksen, the guiding force of a young team that once again toppled supposed superiors. A typical No10 playmaker with Ajax, he has already been the subject of a £35million bid from Manchester City that was rejected so he could complete his footballing education in Amsterdam.

Intelligent management has also been crucial, with Morten Olsen – captain of the "Dynamite" side – now the world's longest-serving international head coach at 12 years and counting.

Olsen's side mix his desire for strength in possession with adventurous attacking wing play, and it is a cocktail that works – even though many of the team are not regarded as top class.

Nicklas Bendtner, for example, who scored the winner against Portugal, is surplus to requirements at Arsenal and currently on loan at Sunderland, while goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen is only a reserve at Stoke City and winger Dennis Rommedahl plies his trade in the Danish Superliga with Brondby at the age of 33.

Denmark's qualification began slowly. A nervous 1-0 win at home to Iceland, thanks to a goal from Thomas Kahlenberg, was followed by a 3-1 loss away to Portugal, and only five players from the opening game survived to the final group fixture.

> Olsen's side mix strength in possession with adventurous wing play

A mere 15,000 people watched another stuttering home win – 2-0 against Cyprus – before a 1-1 draw away to a revived Norway pointed the way forward. Olsen demanded a bold performance and Denmark dominated the game, leading for most of the match through Rommedahl before conceding a late equaliser.

At the halfway stage, Denmark looked in a poor position, but four successive victories sealed qualification.

Iceland were beaten 2-0 away and then a noisy, capacity crowd in Copenhagen witnessed a fine 2-0 triumph against Norway, with both goals scored by Bendtner.

The penultimate game, Cyprus away, was a potential banana skin, but four goals in the opening 22 minutes – two from Rommedahl, and one each from Lars Jacobsen and Michael Krohn-Dehli – saw them canter to a 4-1 victory and set up a winner-takes-all contest at home to Portugal.

Brondby winger Krohn-Dehli, a late developer at the age of 28, was on target again before Bendtner added a second. Denmark dominated, with playmaker Eriksen in magical form, and a stoppage-time goal from Cristiano Ronaldo was an inconsequential reply.

Injuries had forced Olsen to play novice Andreas Bjelland, but the Nordsjaelland defender was outstanding against Ronaldo and Nani. "I don't play against players like that in the Danish league," he said. "But we managed to control possession of the ball and that was the key. We kept to our game plan and it worked."

Olsen said it was one of his team's finest performances during his time in charge – immediately sparking hopes that he might stay on after Euro 2012.

As for Denmark's prospects next summer, with Eriksen in top form they can certainly hope to compete with the best, and there are a batch of youngsters coming through, such as central defender Simon Kjaer, who look extremely talented.

And don't forget: when Denmark won the 1992 European Championship nobody thought that at all possible. WS

EURO 2012: THE NEW BOYS

ANDREAS BJELLAND
A 23-year-old central defender from Norsjaelland, who has just three caps but a swiftly growing reputation which has already seen him turn down a move to Club Brugge.

MICHAEL KROHN-DEHLI
A skilful winger, clever on the ball, and with an eye for goal. Back home at Brondby after playing just four games for Ajax in a barren two-year spell.

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HOWARD JOHNSON
in Paris

Blanc's boys home and dry

Les Bleus qualified for Euro 2012 after surviving a Bosnian scare

Point taken...Nasri's penalty against Bosnia puts France through to the Euro 2012 finals

It all came out in the wash, then. But for 78 minutes at the Stade de France on October 11 it looked as if France coach Laurent Blanc would be preparing his side for a tricky two-legged play-off in November.

France went into their final Euro 2012 qualifier against second-placed Bosnia-Herzegovina sitting on top of Group D. They needed a point from the final game in Paris to secure automatic qualification for next June's finals in Poland and Ukraine, and the omens were good. Blanc's charges were on an impressive 14-game streak of 10 wins and four draws – going back to a 1-0 loss to Belarus in September 2010 – and had already beaten their opponents 2-0 in Sarajevo. Added to the fact that they hadn't conceded a goal in their previous four games at the Stade de France, surely nothing could go wrong?

Well, it so nearly did. For the first 45 minutes a young France side – missing big names such as Franck Ribery and Karim Benzema – played like total strangers. Bosnia had said they were coming to attack and they weren't kidding. Under coach Safet Susic, who spent nine glorious years in the French capital as a much-admired player with Paris Saint-Germain, they went for the jugular. And it was no surprise when Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko expertly turned his man on the edge of the penalty area in the 40th minute before curling the ball past Hugo Lloris to put the visitors in front.

It was down to Blanc to earn his wages at half-time. But what did he say? "He simply asked us if we really wanted to go the European Championship," revealed substitute Kevin Gameiro. The answer, it would appear, was a resounding yes. France came out for the second period showing far more intent, and slowly but surely got the upper hand.

> *"Le General"* has managed to construct a new, young side in his own image

Twelve minutes from time, Samir Nasri won a crucial penalty after he was tripped by Bosnia skipper Emir Spahic. There were perhaps valid arguments that the offence took place just outside the box, but Nasri himself stepped up to equalise. A 1-1 draw was probably a fair result, and France were home and dry.

Blanc can take enormous satisfaction from a successful campaign that wasn't as easy as it might at first look from the results. First, he inherited a team in complete disarray after the fiasco of the player strike during the 2010 World Cup. Then he had to ride out a trumped-up racist storm after being illicitly taped during a robust debate about player quotas.

"Le General" has led with quiet authority throughout his brief tenure as national coach and successfully managed to construct a new, young France side in his own image. But it's not a team without faults. A 2-1 victory over Albania in Tirana last September made for pretty unpleasant viewing, while a 0-0 draw with Romania four days later required the French to dig really deep for a precious point. And again in that last game against Bosnia, it was plain to see the team is still in the process of coming together, rather than being anywhere near the finished article.

However, nobody knows this better than Blanc. No fool, he will be grateful that he now has time to prepare for the Euros serenely, rather than having the distraction of the play-offs. He intends to play two friendlies in November before the stiff test of a meeting with Germany in Bremen on February 29.

What's particularly interesting is that Blanc has blooded a number of young players who look to have what it takes at the very top level. Yann M'Vila (21), Loic Remy (24), Adil Rami (25), Marvin Martin (23) and Yohan Cabaye (25) will form the nucleus of the new regime, while the likes of Ribery, Philippe Mexes, Benzema, Florent Malouda and Eric Abidal will add experience and international know-how to the mix.

There's clearly plenty of potential in this squad and, while Blanc knows he had his fair share of luck in the qualifiers, by the time next summer's Euros come around France could easily emerge as one of the dark horses. WS

EURO 2012: THE NEW BOYS

YANN M'VILA
He may be just 21 years old but the Rennes defensive midfielder looks like he's been at the top for years. Strong as an ox and stubborn as a mule, he has quickly established himself as more than worthy of the blue shirt.

ADIL RAMI
A late starter in the professional game, the central defender has rocketed from council worker to international in five years. Despite four different partners at the back during qualifying, the Valencia man has been rock solid.

PADDY AGNEW
in Rome

Novara enjoy a moment of glory

Minnows make a splash on their return to Serie A

Juventus, Torino and little Novara. As the season slowly gets into gear, it has been difficult to keep the northern region of Piedmont out of the headlines. While Turin's Juventus and Torino strut their stuff in some style at the top of Serie A and Serie B respectively, Novara have been responsible for easily the biggest upset of the season so far. In only their third game of the campaign, the newly promoted club pulled off easily their greatest victory of modern times when they beat Internazionale 3-1 at home.

While the subsequent sacking of Inter coach Gian Piero Gasperini and the debate about his side's tactical debacle (see page 54) inevitably, if somewhat unfairly, overshadowed their conquerors' 15 minutes of fame, the Novara story is one that is worth telling – and not just because, along with Cesena, they have introduced an artificial grass pitch to Serie A this term.

Founded in 1908 and originally blessed with the dual language name of Football Association Studenti Novara, the club spent much of the 1920s and 30s in the lower divisions. Novara's best period probably came in the immediate post-war years when, thanks to the inspiration of the ageing Italy and Lazio ace Silvio Piola, they managed eight consecutive seasons in Serie A, from 1948 to 1956. Their return, 55 years later, remarkably came on the back of two successive promotions.

Novara have travelled a long way in the past 20 years. Just two seasons ago they were playing in Group A of the Lega Pro, Italy's third division, and in 1990 they narrowly missed relegation to the sixth-division Campionato Interregionale, only being re-instated in Serie C2 due to the financial collapse of Pro-Vercelli.

Even though they only spent about £2.5million in the summer, buying the likes of Japanese winger Takayuki Morimoto and defenders Argentine Hernan Dellafiore and Massimo Paci, a small nucleus of the squad which won successive promotions has survived. And, fittingly, one such player, midfielder Marco Rigoni, scored twice against Inter.

Even though plenty of difficult days are likely to lie ahead this season, the victory against Inter in their first home game back in the top flight will never be forgotten by Novara fans. And, no matter how hard he tries, it will never fade from Gasperini's memory either.

Turning back the clock

In the job for less than three months, Gasperini's dismissal was as if the clock had been turned back. Here were Inter dispensing with their third coach – after Rafa Benitez and Leonardo – in less than a year.

For the record, Inter have gone through 15 coaches since Massimo Moratti took over in 1995: Ottavio Bianchi, Luis Suarez, Roy Hodgson, Luciano Castellini, Gigi Simoni, Mirceau Lucescu, Hodgson again, Marcello Lippi, Marco Tardelli, Hector Cuper, Alberto Zaccheroni, Roberto Mancini, Jose Mourinho, Benitez, Leonardo and Gasperini. Add to that list new boss Claudio Ranieri and you get an average turnover of one coach per annum.

It was as if the relative stability of the Mancini and Mourinho years, from 2004 to 2010 – which, incidentally, were winning times – had been a mirage. Inter's bad habits were back.

Critics delighted in pointing out that Moratti's 16 coaches had cost him £62m in wages – many of which were still being paid long after the coach in question had been sacked. For example, it has been calculated that, between them, Tardelli, Cuper, Mancini and Benitez cost Inter £18m in what might euphemistically be called "unemployment benefit" or "golden get-out-of-here handshakes".

Inter's troubles did not end at Novara. A controversial penalty decision in a subsequent 3-0 home defeat by Napoli two games later inevitably prompted a great deal of Inter ire, not to say paranoia. Worse still, it left the team just above the relegation zone as they made their worst start to a season since the early 1980s.

While Inter were fuming about refereeing "injustices", old rivals Juventus were making plenty of hay in the autumnal sun. Their 2-0 home win against Milan took them joint-top of the table with Napoli and prompted the inevitable title dreams. That result also

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Electric blue...Rigoni (far left) gets the plaudits from his Novara team-mates after scoring the first of his two goals against Inter

left Milan just a point clear of Inter at the wrong end of the table and, although these are obviously early days, the season's road for both Milan clubs looks long, winding and uphill.

Juve's win over Milan makes Antonio Conte look the genuine, gold-carat article as a coach, while also confirming the benefits of the new Juventus

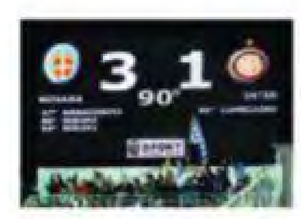
> The season's road for both Milan clubs looks long, winding and uphill

Stadium. In addition to increased box-office revenue, the fact Milan succumbed to 87th- and 93rd-minute goals from Claudio Marchisio owed at least something to the fantastic atmosphere created by their new arena.

Such has been Juve's form so far that is was no surprise when Italy lined up for the 1-1 Euro 2012 draw in Serbia with six Juventus players in Cesare Prandelli's starting line-up: Gianluigi Buffon, Giorgio Chiellini, Leonardo Bonucci, Andrea Barzagli, Andrea Pirlo and Marchisio.

With teams like Lazio, Roma and Cagliari itching to build their own stadia, it was interesting to see Napoli owner Aurelio De Laurentiis chastise Italy's Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi – who is also the owner of Milan, of course – for the failure of his government to push legislation relative to incentives for new stadia through parliament. Maybe, on this front, something might finally begin to move again.

In the meantime, De Laurentiis has nothing to complain about with Napoli back on top of Serie A for the first time since the Maradona days of the late 1980s and early 1990s. With five games played, they have already beaten both Milan and Inter, while in the Champions League they have drawn with Manchester City and won at home against Villarreal.

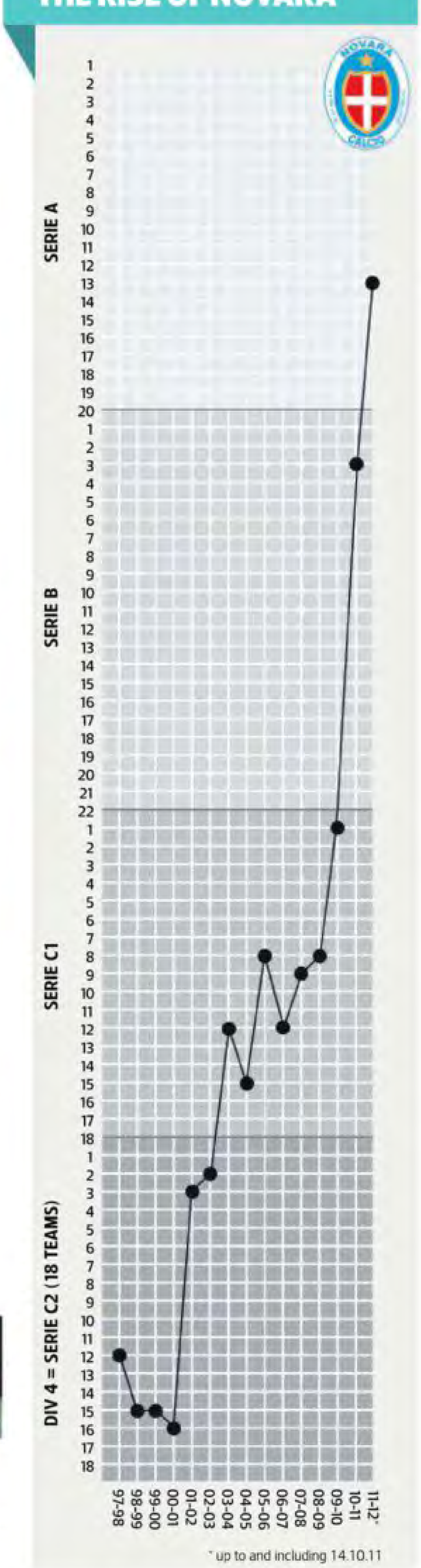


It's no mirage...the Novara scoreboard tells the tale of a famous victory over Internazionale

Bad start...Milan's Christian Abbiati lets a shot from Claudio Marchisio (out of picture) slip through his legs for the second goal in Juventus' 2-0 win

One final thought. A *Gazzetta Dello Sport* survey calculated while Serie A season ticket sales have dropped 20.4 per cent in the last four seasons, the number of fans with a Pay-TV subscription has increased by 69 per cent. *Gazzetta*, like many other commentators, argues that the only way to combat this trend is to build new stadia and make the match-day experience memorable rather than uncomfortable, as can be the case in Serie A stadia which, on average, are 70 years old. **WS**

THE RISE OF NOVARA



STEVE MENARY

Poor planning ends dream

A two-week gap between World Cup qualifiers rules out island's UK-based players

Toughing it out...Grenada's Straker (right) battles Oscar Garcia of Honduras during the CONCACAF Gold Cup

"I was happy to go out, and the club were fine, but the games were too far apart," sighs Grenada defender Anthony Straker. "The games were meant to be five days apart so you only missed one club game. They got moved, so I chose not to go."

On the eve of his country's crucial second World Cup qualifier against St Vincent & the Grenadines, Straker – like his international team-mate Bradley Bubb – was not in the Caribbean with his national team but back in southern England, where he and Bubb play for fourth-tier side Aldershot Town.

After a crushing 3-0 home defeat by Belize in their opening game, Grenada needed a strong side and a result in St Vincent to revive qualification hopes in a group that also features Guatemala.

David Cyrus, a defender with English sixth-tier side Frickley Athletic, played against Belize, but the side that lined up against St Vincent were, apart from Craig Rocastle of Sporting Kansas City, all local amateurs. And while Straker, Bubb and other UK-based players, such as Hereford United's Delroy Facey and Leon Johnson of Wycombe Wanderers, were involved in Football League games, Grenada lost 2-1 to end any realistic hopes of World Cup progress.

With Grenada's two opening qualification games scheduled a fortnight apart, their UK-based players dropped out of the picture at a time when the island should be building on a second successive Gold Cup appearance this summer.

> "I would have only missed one league game but then the qualifiers got moved"
> **Grenada defender Anthony Straker**

Qualification for the continental competition came after reaching the 2008 Caribbean Championship Final and the semi-finals two years later – with both performances being achieved using mostly local players.

Mike Adams, a former Chelsea youth player and long-time consultant to the Grenada national side, subsequently scouted a number of UK-based players with Grenadian links, and the likes of Straker and Bubb featured at this summer's Gold Cup, where the tiny island faced three sides with experience of either senior or Under-20 World Cup finals.

Franklyn "Nat" Simpson of Trinidad & Tobago coached Grenada during the 2010 Caribbean Championship, but Adams took over for the Gold Cup in the USA, where his side lost 4-0 to Jamaica, 7-1 to Honduras and 4-0 to Guatemala.

"There's some talented players there, it was just the step up in competition," says Wycombe defender Johnson.

Adams walked out of the Grenada job after the Gold Cup, explaining: "Both sides said we would review my position after the tournament, but it was obvious to me that I wasn't going to continue after we got to the US.

"There was nothing professional about the whole trip until CONCACAF took over. Before that it was a nightmare. We had to try to hold it together with a lot of lads who had never been off the island before.

"There's a good bedrock of talent in Grenada, but they don't have the infrastructure. We've got a situation where there's no professional league and some players can't afford the bus to training."

Although Blackburn Rovers striker Jason Roberts announced his international retirement after the 2010 World Cup qualifiers, other UK-based players who are eligible for Grenada include Jermaine Beckford of Leicester City and Stoke City's Cameron Jerome. However, this time Adams is taking a back seat, admitting: "I wouldn't hesitate to get those UK lads involved again, but I'm giving it a wide berth now."

Simpson is back in charge of the national team, but Grenada's 2014 World Cup qualifying dream already appears to have been undone by political schisms and poor fixture planning. WS

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Grenada is a former British colony in the Grenadines area of the Caribbean.

Population 108,000
Size 133 square miles
Capital Saint George's
Language English, French patois
Religion Roman Catholic, Protestant

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MARK GLEESON

Continental shift

Major powers will be missing from January's Nations Cup finals

Only one of the winners from the last nine editions of the African Nations Cup will be at next year's finals in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon after a bizarre qualifying campaign of dramatic twists, turns and shocks.

Missing from the 16-team line-up will be holders Egypt (winners in 1998 and from 2006 to 2010); four-time champions Cameroon (who last won in 2000 and 2002); perennial semi-finalists Nigeria (whose last of two titles came in 1994); and South Africa (whose only success was at home in 1996).

The only recent past winners to qualify are 2004 champions Tunisia – and that was by the skin of their teeth, with a stoppage-time equaliser in a match they did not even compete in as Malawi failed to hold onto a 2-1 lead in Chad.

Whether all of this represents a major shift in the balance of power for the continental game, as seems to happen every decade, might be too early to call. Explaining why so many previously top-ranked sides came to such grief cannot be done in general terms – each team have their specific circumstances and problems.

Less than two years ago, defending champions Egypt were celebrating the remarkable feat of a third successive Nations Cup title, won with a late goal in the Final in Luanda, Angola, against a youthful Ghana.

No side had ever done that before. But already Egypt were a side rapidly approaching their salad days.

An ageing team, which has increasingly struggled with injuries at crucial times to key players, were caught out at the start of the 2012 qualifiers and never managed, as they have done with some success in the past, to extricate themselves from a sticky situation.

Egypt's elimination came very early and they were mathematically out with two matches still to play, so they elected to field their under-23 side in the remaining group games to prepare them for the forthcoming Olympic qualifiers.

Hassan Shehata's reign as African football's most successful national coach is over, and he is replaced by the American Bob Bradley in what looks something of an ill-fitting match.

Nigeria failed to qualify for two major reasons: a paucity of playing talent and a coach who was not up to the job.

For a country of over 100 million people, Nigeria has had a regular conveyor belt of competent players, but stars such as Jay-Jay Okocha, Sunday Oliseh, Daniel Amokachi and Stephen Keshi have not been replaced in recent times. John Obi Mikel is their one "name" player but he lacks the dynamism to carry the squad.

Coach Samson Siasia drastically changed the look of the side after Nigeria's disastrous 2010 World Cup in South Africa – and he has made some notable finds, such as Joel Obi and Ahmed Musa – but he has lacked the steely leadership necessary and clashed publicly with some of his top players, notably Peter Odemwingie.

Siasia had been promoted on the basis of the fact that he took Nigeria's under-23s to the silver medal at the last Olympics. But that achievement, as with most of their success at age-group level, has little credence given frequent revelations of age cheating.

Cameroon paid the price for the divisive influence of Samuel Eto'o, who has forged an iron-like grip over the squad, but at the same time caused much friction. His personal stand-off with key midfielder Alex Song, which sparked at the World Cup finals, took a year to resolve.

> South Africa coach Pitso Mosimane had failed to read the rule book

Like Egypt, Cameroon are another team who are coming to the end of a decent generation of players, with the replacements not being of the same high standard.

It can also be argued that, given a population of some 20 million, and limited resources and sporting infrastructure, Cameroon have been punching above their weight class at international level for an impossibly long time and a fall had been inevitable.

South Africa got off to a cracking post-World Cup start and efficiently dealt with the main threat in their group – Egypt. However, they failed to similarly impose themselves on the group's two minnows and then miscalculated in their last game and went out because they did not know the rules.

Coach Pitso Mosimane thought his side would take top place on goal difference on the last qualifying day and therefore set out to shut up shop at home to Sierra Leone to avoid any disasters. But he had failed to read the rule book. The group winner is determined not on goal difference but first by a mini-table of head-to-head results – in this case between South Africa, Sierra Leone and Niger, who all finished tied on points. Niger, despite being thumped in their final qualifier in Cairo, went through.

It was comical yet tragic for South Africa, who will host the 2013 Nations Cup but have undone much of the momentum created by last year's World Cup with an incredible act of folly. WS

Jumping the gun...South Africa celebrate after wrongly believing they had qualified for the finals

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IRAQ

JAMES MONTAGUE

Normal service resumed

Brazilian great Zico has taken over the country's national team

International football can be a cruel mistress. Just ask Wolfgang . The former Werder Bremen coach had been in charge of the Iraq national team for almost a year, albeit with mixed results.

A disappointing Gulf Cup in Yemen last year was followed by a quarter-final defeat to Australia in January's defence of their Asian Cup title in Qatar. But when it came to the business end of Sidka's contract – qualification for the 2014 World Cup finals – things had begun positively. A 2-0 home victory against Yemen was followed by a drab but professional goalless draw in the UAE oasis town of Al Ain, chosen because of ongoing unrest in Sana'a. Three weeks later, with Iraq's place in a qualifying group containing China, Jordan and Singapore secured, he was gone.

"We decided not to renew the contract of the coach after poor results although we qualified for the third round of the World Cup," the Iraqi Football Association's vice-president Abdulkhaleq Masoud told reporters locally. And the man they approached to pull Iraqi football out of the doldrums was none other than Zico.

The Brazilian great, who took Japan to the World Cup finals in 2006, has a tough job on his hands to ensure that the *Lions of Mesopotamia* reach their first World Cup since 1986.

Football in Iraq has gone through some crushing lows and fairy-tale highs since the national side made it to Mexico.

Unbeknown to the rest of the football world, it emerged that Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, would regularly torture players who did not perform on the pitch. When the regime fell, its footballers were targeted by insurgents and extortionists, but the Olympic team still made it to the semi-finals in Greece. And triumph in the 2007 Asian Cup was tempered by the deaths of 50 fans, killed by a suicide bomber during a celebration of the team's victory in the semi-finals.

Earlier this year, World Cup football returned to Iraq for the first time since the war. With Baghdad deemed too dangerous to host the preliminary qualifier against Yemen, the northern Kurdish capital of Irbil was chosen instead. Irbil, like most of the Kurdish region in the north of the country, has enjoyed relative peace compared to the rest of Iraq over the past 20 years, and with violence dropping away from its high in 2007 – when hundreds of civilians were dying in suicide attacks every day – it was fitting that the first home World Cup goal scored on Iraqi soil in almost a decade came from Hawar Mulla Mohammed, a Kurdish striker who had also become the first Iraqi to score in the UEFA Champions League, for Cypriot club Anorthosis Famagusta in 2009.

Road to recovery

The return of World Cup football was something of a signal that life in the country, although still fraught with dangerous sectarianism, is at least on the road to recovery, a road that began with Iraq's famous Asian Cup victory. June 2007 was, according to the US military, one of the bloodiest months since the war began. There were 1,700 sectarian attacks in Baghdad alone. Yet after the Asian Cup Final victory, those numbers had almost halved, to 960, by the end of August. And they kept falling.

Of course, there were several other important factors in the drop in violence, not least the US army's so-called "troop surge". But for the players, many of whom can now return home to Iraq without the fear of assassination, that World Cup game against Yemen provided an important psychological moment for a country that had forgotten how to be a nation.

"The situation in 2007 was very bad," says Nashat Akram, the Iraq midfielder who nearly joined Manchester City when Sven Goran Eriksson was in charge, only to have the UK government refuse him a work visa. "There was fighting on the streets. We won the Asian Cup and now that situation is gone.

"We don't have kidnap in our country any more. We have a very safe country."

Yet for all the unity shown on the pitch, instances of fraternity shown in Iraqi football's corridors of power have been few and far between.

For the past few years the Iraqi FA has been paralysed by a political power struggle that saw it twice suspended by FIFA. The former president Hussein Saeed Mohammed, a Sunni Muslim who led Iraq at Mexico 86 and who is widely seen as the greatest Iraqi player of all time, was seen to have close links with Saddam Hussein's regime – sympathies that he has since denied.

The Shia-led government had tried to remove him, prompting FIFA to suspend

Support...Iraqis display national (right) and Kurdish flags at the World Cup qualifier against Yemen

FROM THE ARCHIVES: KINGS OF ASIA

DISPATCHES

Against all odds

How *World Soccer* reported on Iraq's 2007 Asian Cup triumph. The 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the Final was the culmination of a long, hard journey.

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It was fitting that the first home World Cup goal on Iraq soil in almost a decade came from Kurdish striker Hawar Mulla Mohammed

the IFA over political interference. In July he resigned, having fled the country due to fears for his life, explaining: "I worked as president of the Iraqi FA despite all the unfair accusations made by people outside Iraqi sports, forcing me away from my country.

"The situation became very complicated and I could not work under these conditions."

Yet for every step forward Iraqi football makes, it soon takes two back. Zico's first match in charge was against a rejuvenated Jordan in Irbil. The Jordanians were arguably the most improved performers at January's Asian Cup under the guiding hand of Adnan Hamad – the veteran Iraqi coach who has been called to take charge of his own national side close to a dozen times over the past decade – and they beat Iraq 2-0.

To make matters worse, FIFA were unhappy with the security at the match and have now insisted that future games must be played at a neutral venue, with Qatar hosting the remaining two "home" World Cup qualifiers.

Victory in the following game, against Singapore, gave Iraq hope and October's 1-0 win over China in Shenzhen put them in second place in their group with three games to play.

But whether or not Iraq reach the finals in Brazil in 2014, for many the greatest achievement is simply that football has at last taken centre stage.

The unity and single mindedness of purpose brought through extreme adversity has now been replaced by the much more mundane reality following Iraq's unpredictable performances on the pitch since that famous day in 2007: cold, hard results. **WS**

Target...Zico wants to lead Iraq to Brazil 2014

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World Soccer®

ANY PLAYER...ANY MANAGER...ANY TEAM

It's that time of year again when we ask *World Soccer* readers to review the past 12 months and choose their Player, Manager and Team of the Year. Last year, Xavi was crowned the world's best, along with world champions Spain and Jose Mourinho. The Awards, the oldest of their kind in world football, are now in their 30th year.

Xavi will again feature among the main contenders for World Player of the Year after another year in which Barcelona swept the board, winning the Champions League in style at Wembley, the Club World Cup in Dubai and retaining their Spanish league title.

Xavi's Barcelona colleagues Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta are also bound to attract votes. Messi, in particular, has continued to smash goalscoring records and is on course to become Barcelona's all-time top scorer.

Elsewhere in Spain, Cristiano Ronaldo pipped Messi to the ESM Golden Shoe award after scoring 40 La Liga goals for Real Madrid.

Colombian forward Falcao was the outstanding performer for Porto as they claimed the Europa League, while other South Americans who starred in Europe include Chile's Alexis Sanchez, who contributed to Udinese's great run in Italy, and Napoli's Edinson Cavani.

Uruguay's Luis Suarez was the star of the Copa America, while veteran striker Diego Forlan also played a major part in his country's success.

As for the outstanding manager or coach of 2011, Pep Guardiola will undoubtedly feature prominently in many people's selections. The Barcelona boss continues to work on a rolling one-year contract, eschewing the security of a more permanent deal.

Alex Ferguson, who celebrates 25 years as Manchester United manager in November, will also attract votes, as will Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez. Andre Villas-Boas, the youngest winner of the Europa League, is another contender, as are Borussia Dortmund's Jurgen Klopp and Lille's Rudi Garcia, league champions in Germany and France respectively.

As for the Team of the Year category, Uruguay's Copa America triumph in Argentina is worthy of recognition, while Santos claimed the Libertadores Cup almost half a century after their last triumph. Barcelona, Lille, Dortmund and Manchester United all won their respective leagues, while Porto completed a memorable treble of Portuguese league, Cup and Europa League.

Young Player candidates must be aged 22 or under on December 1, 2011. Santos starlets Neymar and Paulo Henrique Ganso will be strong contenders, along with Lille's Eden Hazard and Dortmund's Mario Gotze.

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PLAYER Biography

Diego Forlan

The middle-class hero whose family have carved a niche in Uruguayan football history. By Tim Vickery

The importance of Uruguay's footballing tradition was emphasised by the players celebrating their 2011 Copa America win at Buenos Aires' El Monumental in July. "We're champions again," they chanted. "Just like the first time." It was a reference to the first Copa America, held in 1916, which was also staged in Argentina and won by *La Celeste*.

This year's triumph was Uruguay's historic 15th, putting them one ahead of Argentina in the all-time table. "In the bus on the way to the match I wasn't thinking about the game," admitted coach Oscar Tabarez afterwards. "I was just imagining that, if we won, I would dedicate this Copa to the players, directors and coaches who had won the other 14. Without them, Uruguay wouldn't have this essence that we feed off."

And included on Tabarez's list would have been some close family members of Diego Forlan, who made sure of the latest success with two goals in Uruguay's 3-0 win over Paraguay in the Final.

Forlan's maternal grandfather, Juan Carlos Corazo, coached the national team to the Copa victories of 1959 and 1967 - with the latter including a couple of substitute appearances from defender Pablo Forlan, Diego's father. "I'm very happy," said Diego after the latest triumph. "My grandfather was a champion, my father too and now me. Our name has left a mark in Uruguayan history."

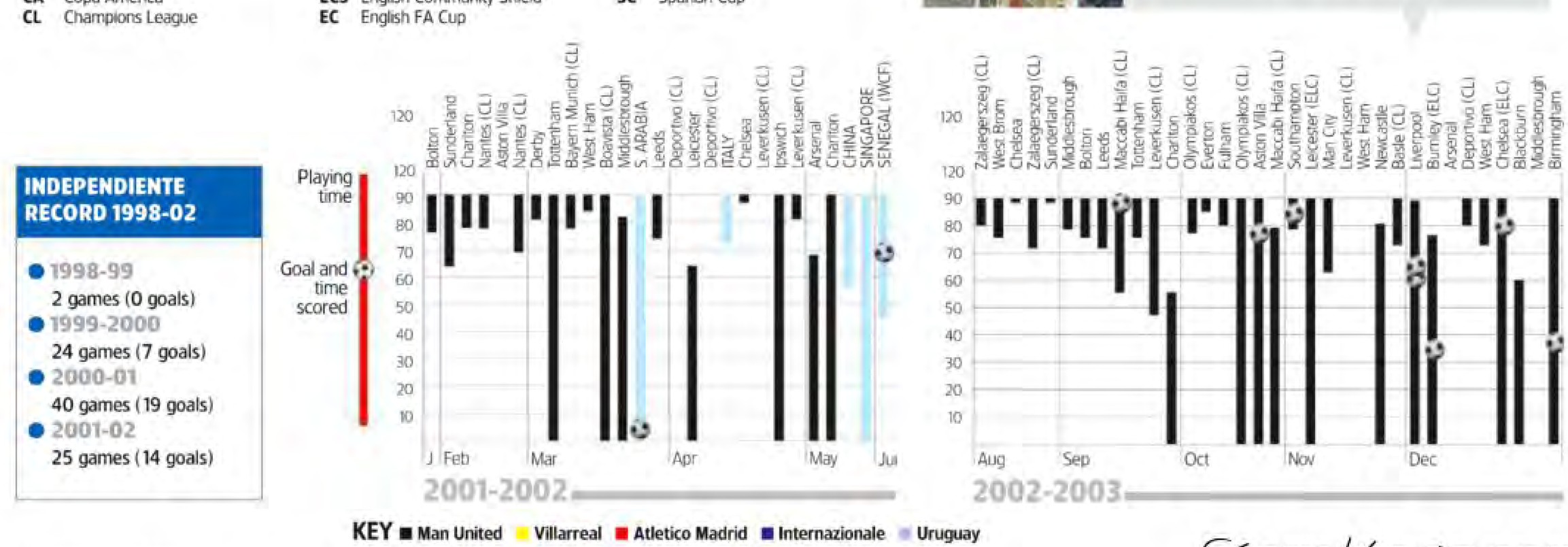
To give the occasion even more

Keeping it in the family...Forlan becomes a Copa America champion, just like his father and grandfather

TIMELINE: EVERY MATCH, EVERY MINUTE, EVERY GOAL

WC World Cup qualifier
WCF World Cup finals
CA Copa America
CL Champions League
UC UEFA Cup/Europa League
USC UEFA Super Cup
ECS English Community Shield
EC English FA Cup
ELC English League Cup
InT InterToto Cup
SC Spanish Cup

Dec 1, 2002 – endears himself to Manchester United fans by scoring twice against Liverpool in a 2-1 win at Anfield.



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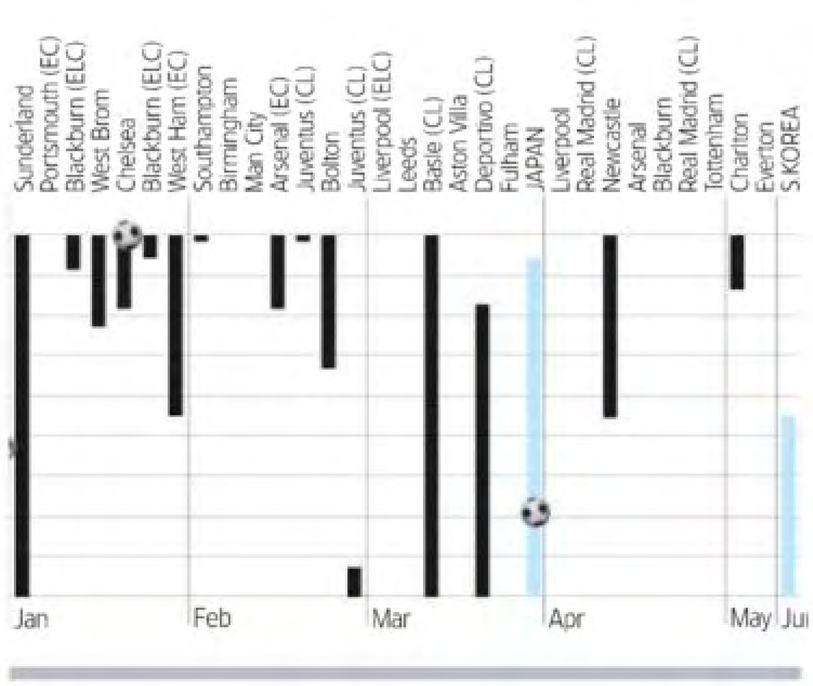
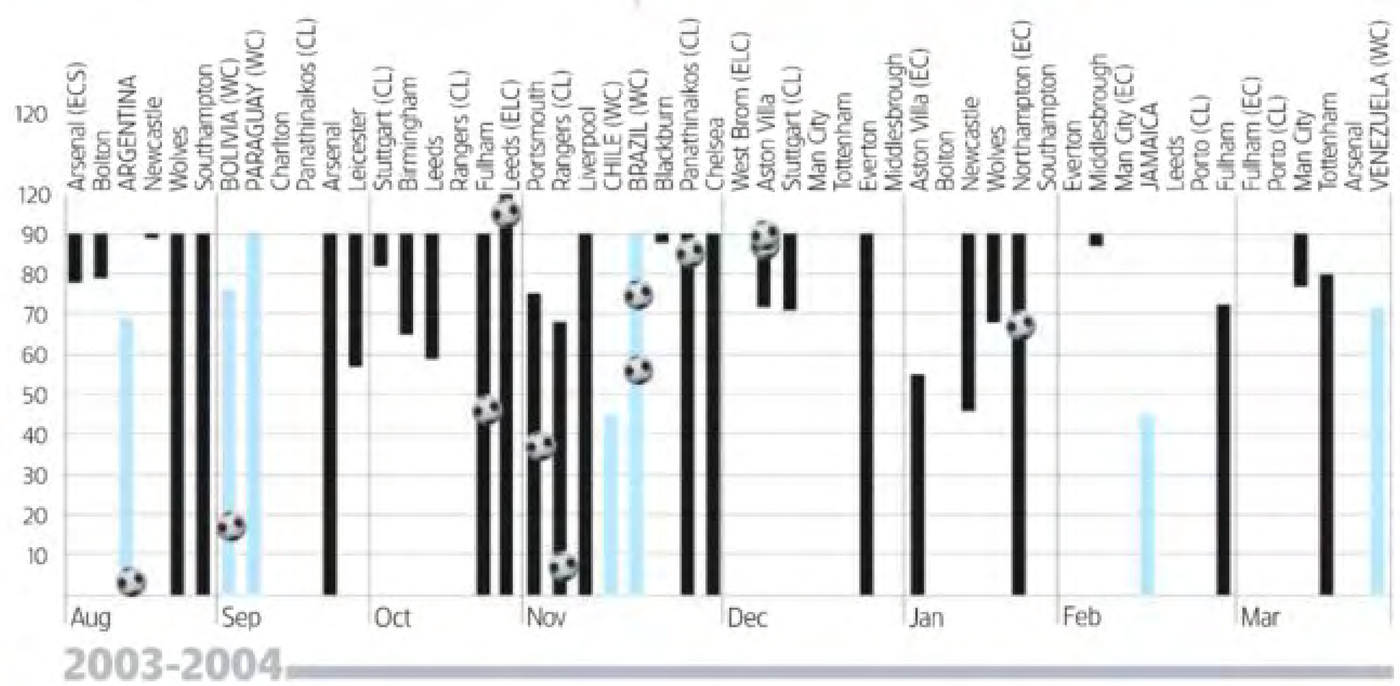
Nov 18, 2003 – scores two second-half goals in 3-3 draw away to Brazil in a World Cup qualifier.





FACT FILE

Diego Forlan Corazo

Nationality
Uruguayan

Age
32 (19.05.79)

Place of birth
Montevideo, Uruguay

Height
5ft 11in (1.80m)

Position
Forward

Teams
Independiente 1997-2001 (91 games, 40 goals)
Manchester United 2001-04 (98 games, 17 goals)
Villarreal 2004-07 (128 games, 59 goals)
Atletico Madrid 2007-11 (198 games, 96 goals)
Internazionale 2011-present (5 games, 1 goal)
Uruguay 2002-present (82 games, 31 goals)

Honours
Uruguay Copa America 2011

Manchester United
Premier League 2003; Community Shield 2003

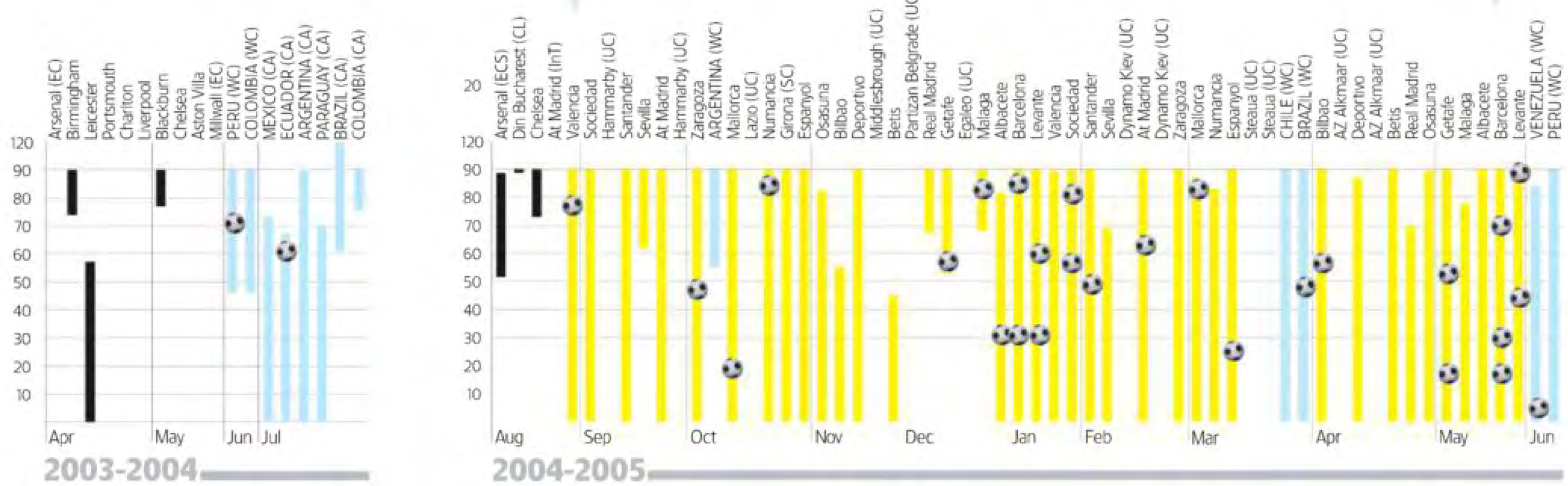
Atletico Madrid
Europa League 2010; UEFA Super Cup 2010

**up to and including October 1, 2011*

Power and grace... Forlan in action during the Copa America Final against Paraguay

Aug 30, 2004 – scores in the 78th minute of his Villarreal debut in 2-1 away defeat to Valencia.

May 22, 2005 – scores a hat-trick in a 3-3 draw away to Barcelona to add to his two strikes against the Nou Camp outfit earlier in the season.



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historical resonance, those two goals against Paraguay took Forlan's total for his country to 31, making him Uruguay's joint-top scorer of all time along with the legendary Hector Scarone, whose titles stretched from the 1917 Copa America to the 1930 World Cup. Forlan's participation in the 15th Copa win, added to last year's award as the best player of the World Cup in South Africa, more than warrants him a place alongside such exalted company.

The story of Forlan's family speaks volumes of the importance of Uruguay's footballing tradition, but while it was something he was born into, it was also

His father encouraged him to develop a two-footed technique

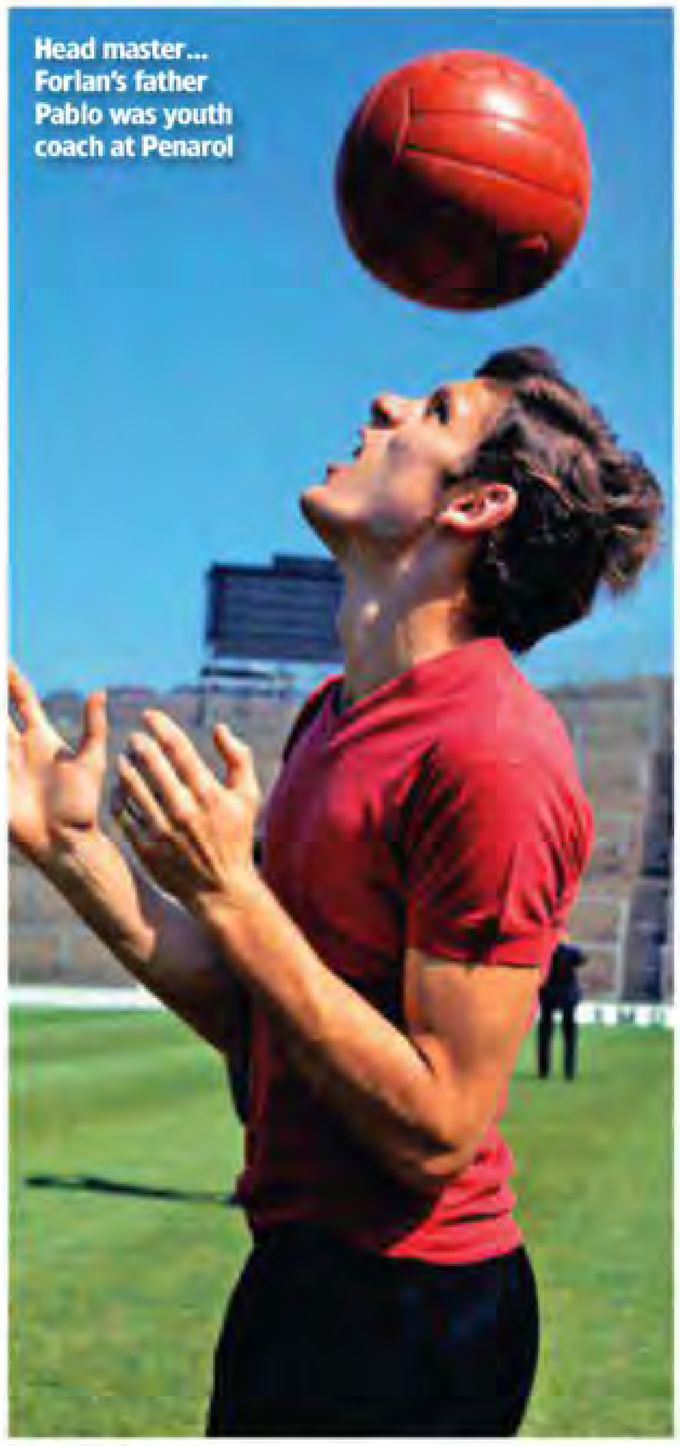
something from which his background gave him a certain distance.

The usual Uruguayan football story is that of working-class kid made good. Indeed, a big part of the explanation for the country's early supremacy comes from the fact that enlightened social policies opened up the game to players from all backgrounds. The first country with a modern welfare state, Uruguay's top scorer in the first Copa was Isabelino Gradin, a poor black who was the great-grandson of African slaves from Lesotho. At the time there was no chance of Brazil, for example, picking someone from a similar background and Chile, Uruguay's first opponents in the competition, even registered a protest against having to play against "Africans".

But there is no rags-to-riches aspect to the tale of Diego Forlan. Pablo's youngest son was born as his father was winding down a long and

Talented...Forlan once considered a tennis career

Inspiration...Forlan has learned from the courage of his sister Alejandra



Head master... Forlan's father Pablo was youth coach at Penarol

successful career, in which a number of well-paid years in Brazil with Sao Paulo had lifted the family safely into the middle class. Diego grew up in Montevideo, in the wealthy, wide streets of the Carrasco suburb, where football was not the only attraction. There was a tennis club nearby and he was a natural – at one point even considering a professional career.

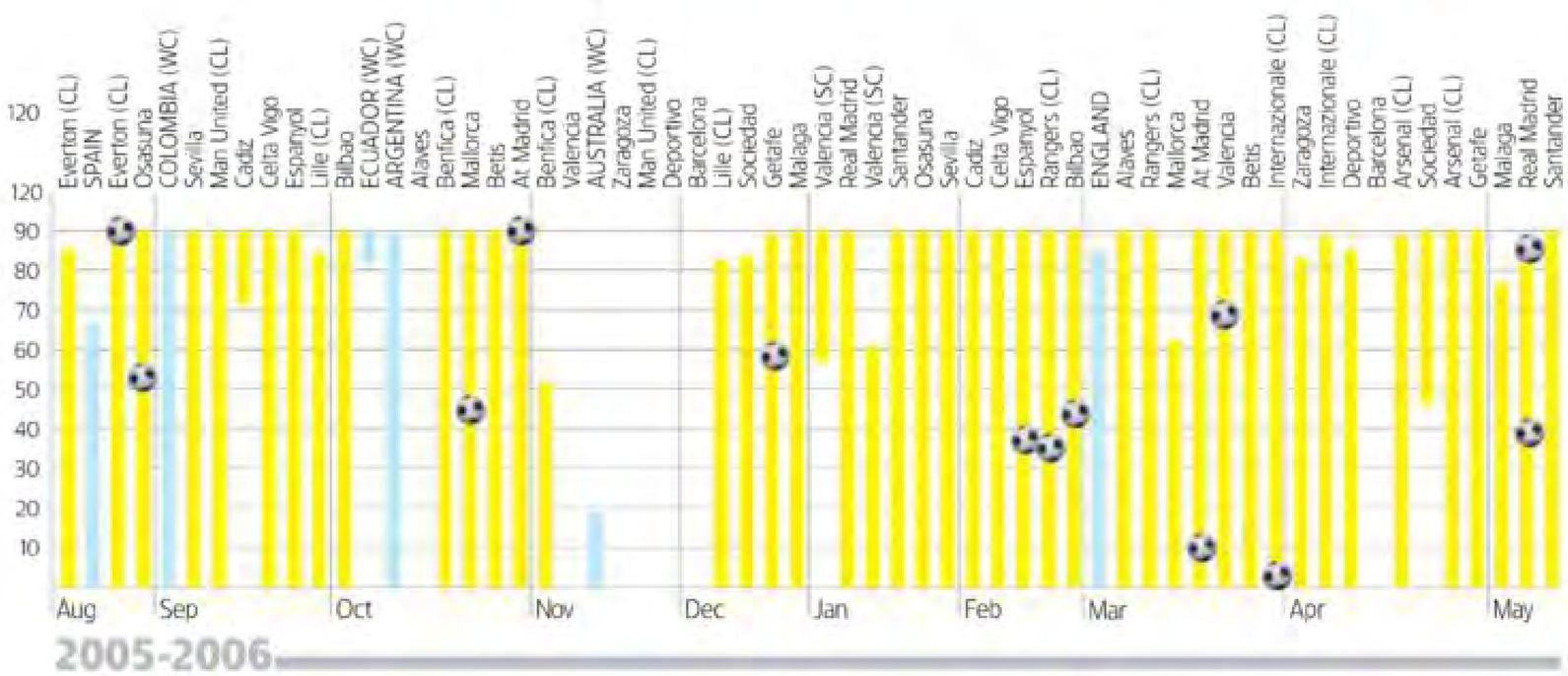
"I was unsure," he recalls. "My dad preferred me to play football. Then he began working as a youth coach with Penarol and I started going there."

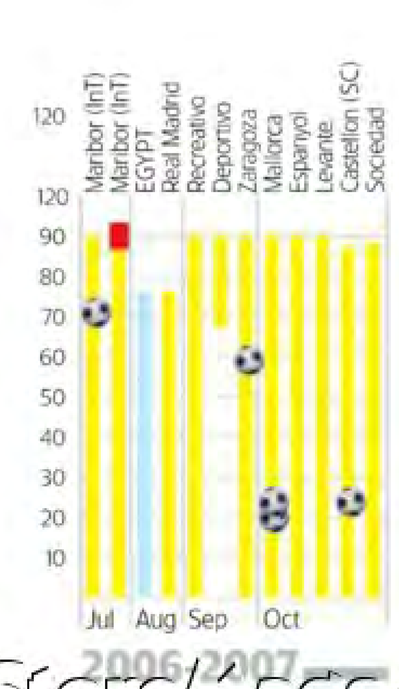
Power and precision

Forlan senior kept his son supplied with videos of great strikers and also encouraged him to develop his technique with both feet. Left-handed on the tennis court, he is right-footed on the football pitch but taught himself both power and precision with his left.

The young Forlan's work ethic was

Nov 12, 2005 – is substituted after just 19 minutes of the 1-0 World Cup play-off win at home to Australia and misses the second leg.





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So close...things did not work out for Forlan at Manchester United

boosted by inspiration from a tragic source after a car accident left his sister, Alejandra, in a wheelchair. "I saw her fight for a good quality of life and search always to learn more," he says.

Armed with his mental and technical virtues – "He learned from my experience and he took the positive from it to strengthen his personality," says Alejandra – he set about a professional football career. But worried about the weight carried by the Forlan surname at Penarol, where his father had been part of the club's mid-60s golden age, he crossed the border to Argentina to make a name for himself with Independiente, where grandfather Corazo had played decades before.

He made his debut at 18 in 1997 and soon became a firm fans' favourite. By the start of the new century his attributes were clearly apparent, and his flowing blond locks, coupled to his two-footed ability and dynamism, made him worthy of comparison with a young Jurgen Klinsmann. He formed a brief partnership with the burly Matias Vuoso at Independiente which was interrupted when both ended up in Manchester in a move that neither can look back on with much pleasure. Vuoso did not even get a game with City, while Forlan did not prove to be Alex Ferguson's most successful piece of business.

The problem at Old Trafford, as Forlan's subsequent achievements have made clear, was that the move happened too early in his career. This was not a case of a South American unable to adapt in cultural terms – after all, he had arrived speaking English, which was one of the benefits of his middle-class upbringing – but the step up was simply too much for the youngster. The transfer made bigger headlines than it should have as a consequence of United snatching the player from under the noses of Middlesbrough. And Forlan, at this stage, was not ready to live up to the hype. His experience was very limited and he had not even played in the Libertadores Cup. While he had represented Uruguay in the 1999 World Youth Cup, he had yet to be picked for the senior squad, with coach Victor Pua concerned that his finishing was still not sufficiently precise.

In two-and-a-half years at United he did have occasional glory days, but was never able to play enough games to build up momentum in order to feel sufficiently confident and secure to play to his potential.

Pichichi prize...Forlan was twice La Liga top scorer with Villarreal (top) and then Atletico Madrid

La Liga top scorer

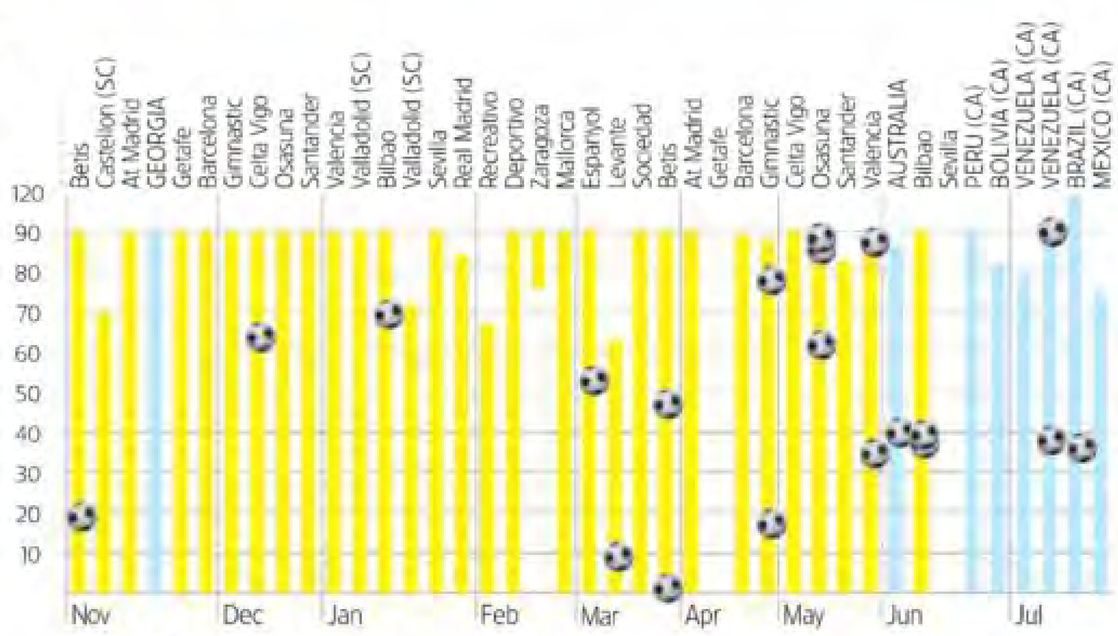
The beneficiary of the premature move to United turned out to be La Liga. Forlan joined Villarreal for the 2004-05 campaign and ended the season as the Spanish league's top scorer. In tandem with Argentinian playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme in Manuel Pellegrini's side, Forlan even helped Villarreal to the semi-finals of the 2006 Champions League.

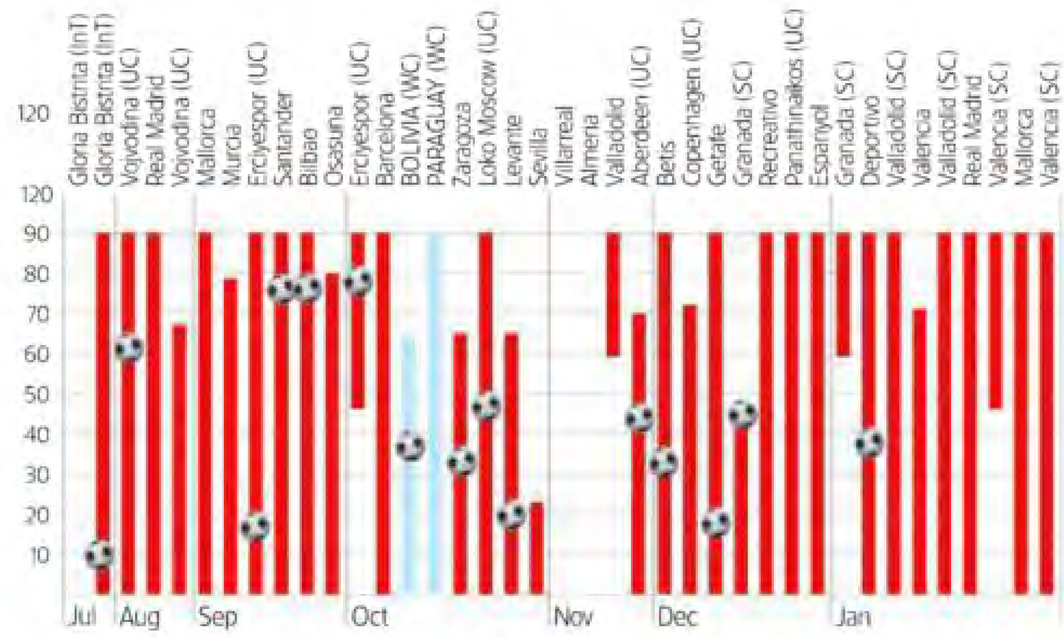
A year later he moved on to Atletico

Over the border... Forlan is mobbed after scoring for Independiente

Jul 10, 2007 – distraught after missing his penalty in a shoot-out defeat to Brazil in the Copa America semi-finals.

Jul 28, 2007 – is on target after just 11 minutes of his debut for Atletico Madrid in a 1-0 InterToto Cup win at home to Gloria Bistrita.





KEY ■ Man United ■ Villarreal ■ Atletico Madrid ■ Internazionale ■ Uruguay

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Euro triumph...Forlan and Atletico Madrid celebrate winning the Europa League

Reunion...Forlan greets Rio Ferdinand and Ruud Van Nistelrooy before Villarreal's Champions League game with Manchester United

Madrid, where many would have been intimidated by the task of replacing local idol Fernando Torres. However, the chants of "Uruguayan" that regularly used to ring out at the Vicente Calderon stadium were a noisy tribute to the fact that he took it all in his stride.

In 2008-09 he was once again La Liga's top marksman, and a year later he scored five of the club's last six goals as they clinched the Europa League trophy, getting two in both the semi-final against Liverpool and the Final with Fulham. It must have been especially satisfying to score in front of an English audience, providing definitive proof that his unhappy spell at Old Trafford was down to unfortunate timing rather than any lack of ability.

Then, after an unhappy final season in Spain, during which he fell out with his coach, he moved to Internazionale, who are convinced he still has plenty to offer.

The theme of being something of a late developer is one that runs through Forlan's career, and that has certainly been the story of his time with the national team.

He made the squad in time for the 2002 World Cup, and scored in the last group game against Senegal when, needing to win, Uruguay came back from three down but could only draw 3-3. He was the team's top scorer in the 2006 qualifiers, but was short of fitness when they met Australia in the play-off. Risked in the first leg, Forlan limped off before the 20-minute mark and could not make the return match, which Australia won on penalties.

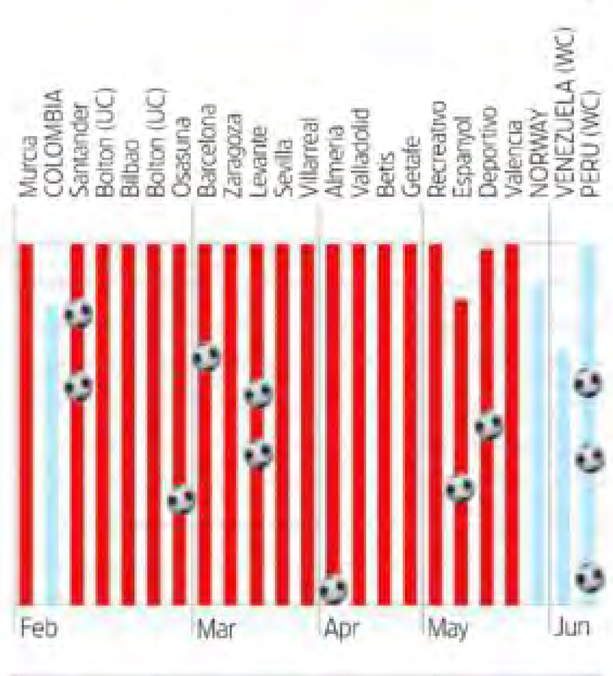
> He proved to an English audience his unhappy spell at Old Trafford was down to timing, not a lack of ability

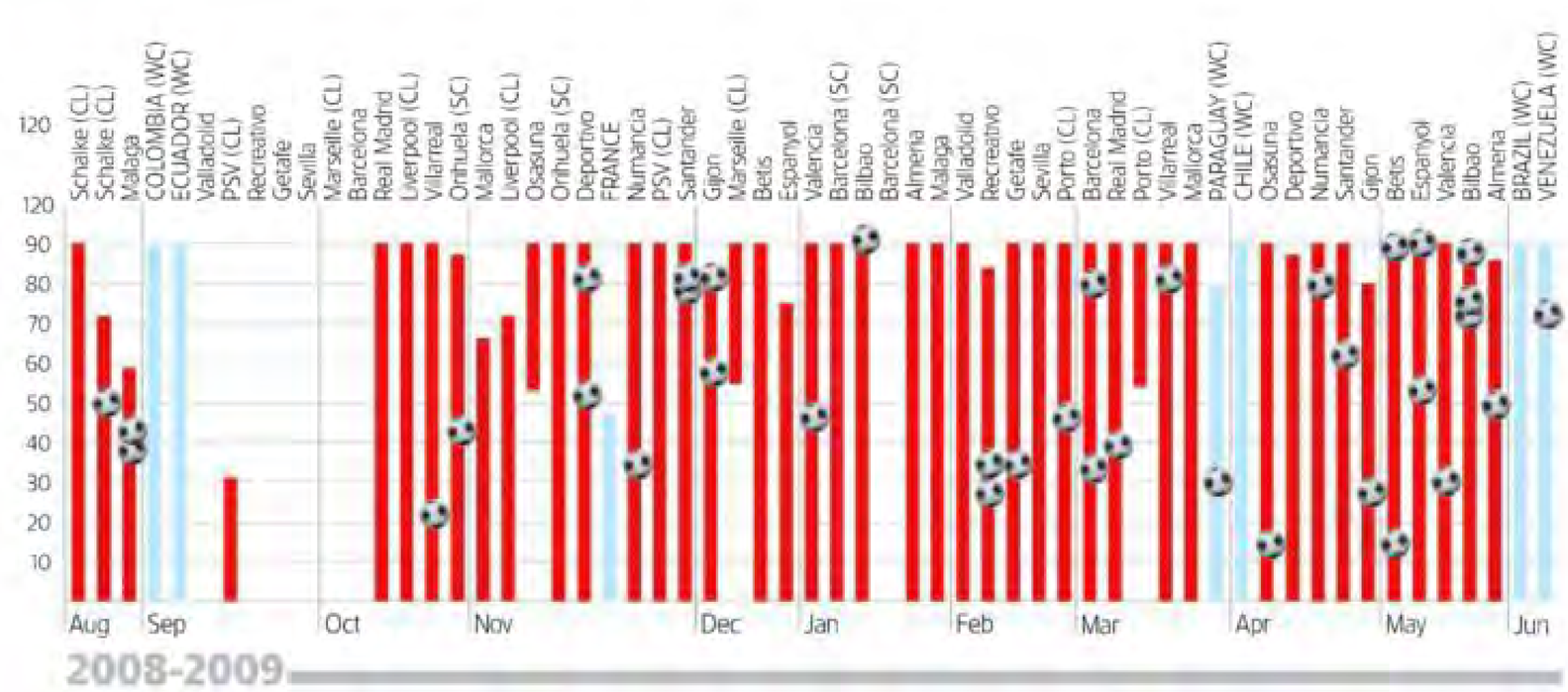
There was another shoot-out defeat, against Brazil, in the semi-finals of the following year's Copa America in Venezuela. This time Forlan was on the field, but he took Uruguay's first kick, struck it weakly down the middle and saw his effort comfortably saved.

That 2007 Copa was the first tournament in the current reign of Tabarez and, for all the heartbreak of the semi-final defeat, it was an important landmark for the national team. After a disastrous 3-0 opening-day defeat by Peru, they regrouped and began to find the blend which, with plenty of bumps along the way, carried them to their recent triumphs. And it was a process in which Forlan became increasingly important

He was again the team's top scorer in the 2010 qualifiers - Uruguay did not manage a win in the five games that he missed - but once again they had to do

Jun 17, 2008 – scores his first hat-trick for Uruguay, in a 6-0 World Cup qualifying win at home to Peru.





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Talking tactics...Forlan with Uruguay coach Tabarez at last year's World Cup

In tandem...Suarez and Forlan

New look...Forlan playing for Internazionale against Bologna

things the hard way, finishing fifth and only booking their place in South Africa via the play-offs. But before the end of the campaign Forlan was more than just a striker, and it was in the crunch tie at home to Colombia that he became the brains of the attack with his intelligent movement and precise passing.

"He took time to take on the role that his talent made him capable of," says Tabarez. "He was the reference figure of the Uruguayan player doing well abroad, and his ability on the field demanded that he assume a leadership that he took time to grow into."

Double role

It was a transformation that turned him into the best player of the 2010 World Cup. Uruguay had a problem with a lack of midfield elaboration: Ignacio Gonzalez disappointed in the opening game, and when young hope Nicolas Lodeiro was introduced he was soon sent off. The solution was to drop Forlan slightly deeper and give him a double role, both setting up and concluding the moves. It allowed him to showcase his all-round game.

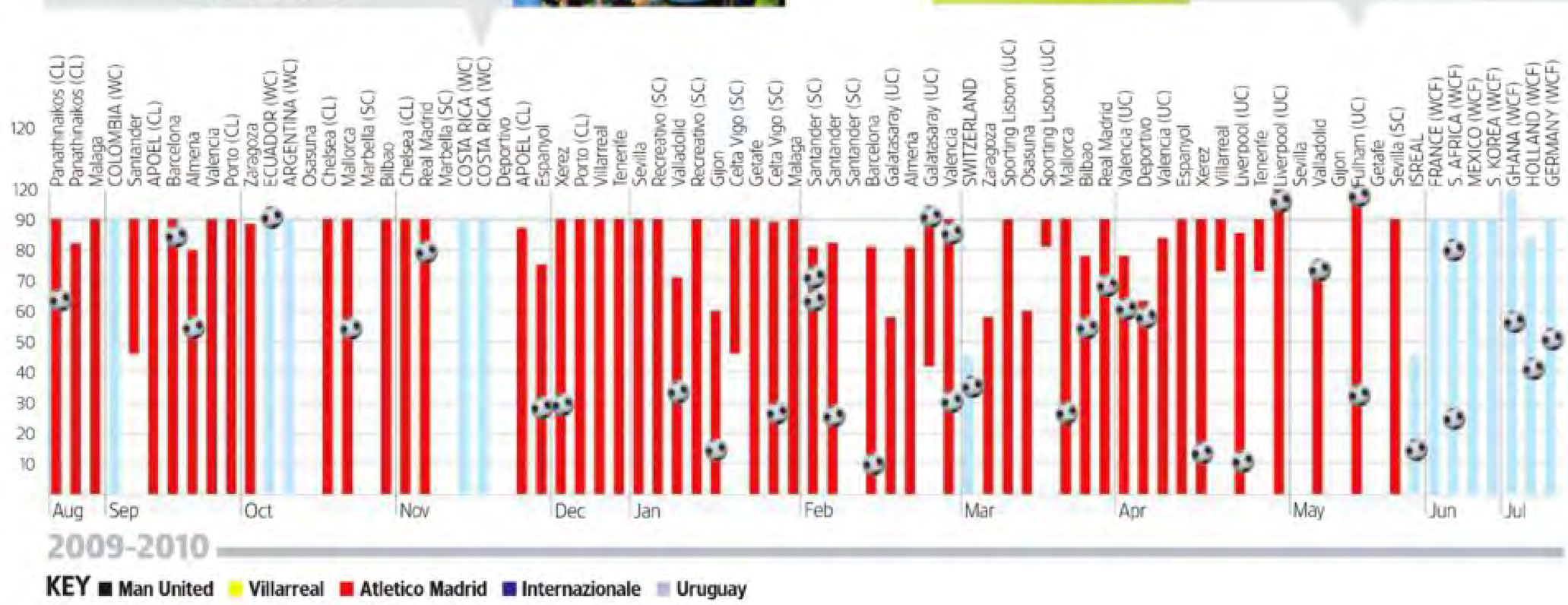
Forlan, says Tabarez, "was the player who carried the team on his back; he was the first to shout at a team-mate, to demand more effort, to fight for the ball". And he also formed one of international football's great strike partnerships with the exciting Luis Suarez.

The younger member of the duo is full of praise for his mentor, saying: "Along with other experienced players like Diego Lugano, Sebastian Eguren and Sebastian Abreu, Diego is a reference in the squad, a guide, the type of person who is always there for you and always cheering you on. He's such a complete player and a brilliant team-mate."

Suarez and Forlan were in perfect

Nov 18, 2009 – fails to score in both legs but helps Uruguay to qualify for the World Cup finals with a 2-1 aggregate win in the play-off against Costa Rica.

May 12, 2010 – scores both goals, the winner four minutes from the end of extra-time, as Atletico Madrid beat Fulham 2-1 in the Europa League Final in Hamburg.



Equaliser...Forlan scores with a free-kick against Ghana in the 2010 World Cup quarter-finals

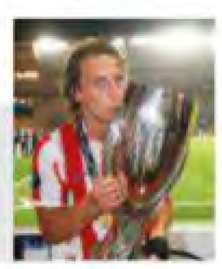
> "Forlan carried the team on his back. He would shout at a team-mate to demand more effort"
>
> Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez

synchronicity in the 2011 Copa America Final, scoring Uruguay's three goals between them.

"That's how two strikers should combine," said Antonio Alzamendi, who was a Copa champion with Uruguay in 1987. At 32, Forlan is theoretically on the downward slope, but his father managed to play until the age of 39 and brought his son up with the idea that "for a footballer the night is made for sleeping, not going out". Abreu confirms the lesson has been learned, saying: "Diego is very hard-line with things such as diet and getting enough rest."

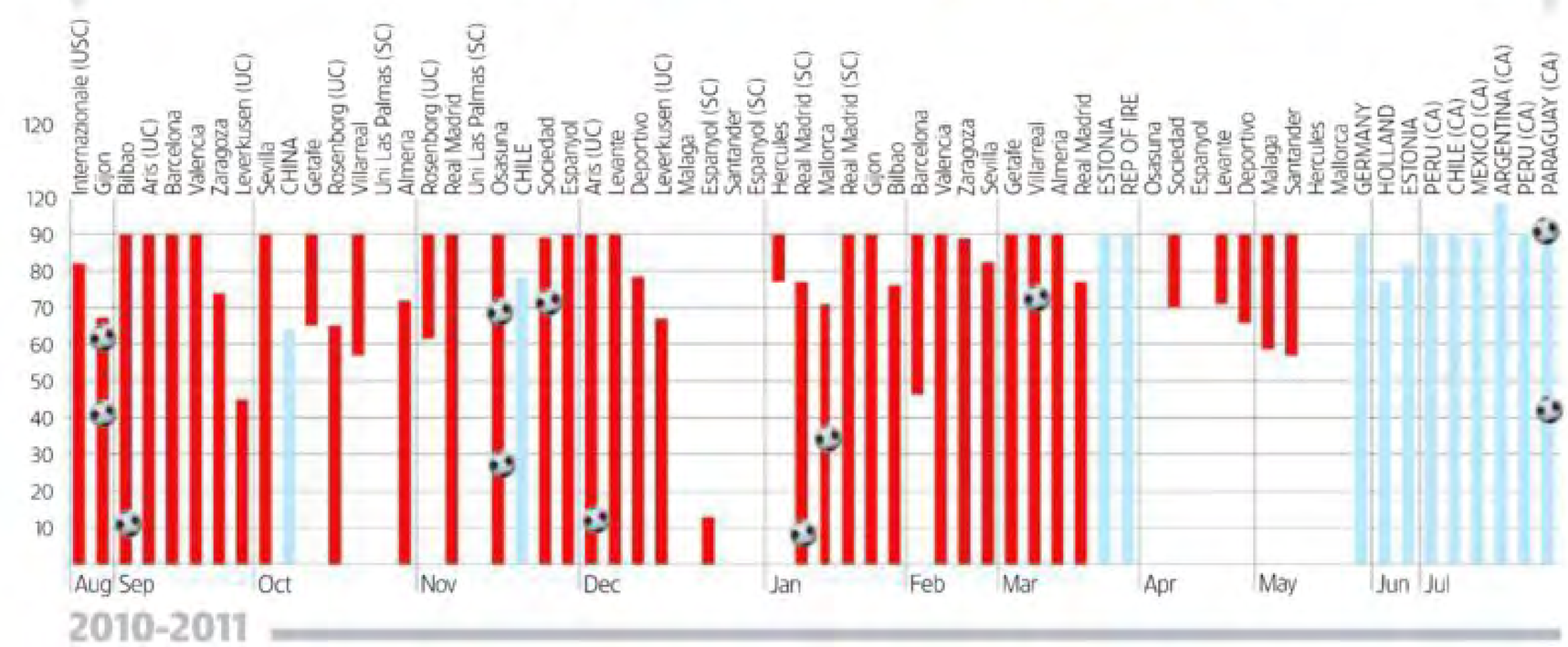
There is a powerful motive for Forlan to take care of himself as he declares: "I'd love to play in the 2014 World Cup. I'll be older, it will be difficult, but it would be just beautiful to play so close to Uruguay, so that our people can travel to cheer us on."

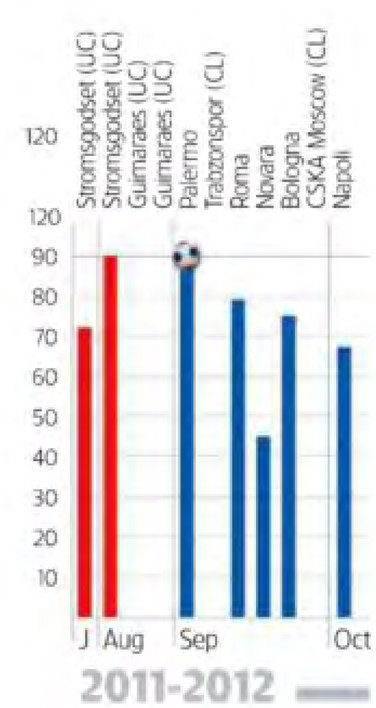
The aim then, of course, will be to emulate Uruguay's 1950 team, and become world champions on Brazilian soil. If Diego Forlan can pull that one off then his place in his country's history will be so secure they will have to erect a statue of him in every town square. **WS**



Aug 27, 2010 – celebrates after Atletico Madrid defeat his future employers Internazionale in the UEFA Super Cup in Monaco.

Jul 24, 2011 – scores twice as Uruguay beat Paraguay 3-0 in Buenos Aires to win the Copa America for a record-breaking 15th time.





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Inter's back problem

Jonathan Wilson explains how playing three central defenders cost Internazionale coach Gian Piero Gasperini his job

A 3-1 defeat at promoted Novara brought a swift end to Gian Piero Gasperini's three-month reign as coach of Internazionale, and the day after he was sacked the 53-year-old was in belligerent mood.

"I know that results determine everything," he said. "Inter knew that my system was 3-4-3. It is not that I do not know another system, but I believe that with this one the team I coach play better. I explained this to Inter's chiefs three times when I spoke with them. I believe that the controversy about the formation was used as an excuse [to sack me]. If Inter did not believe in my work, why did they sign me?"

Gasperini's reputation was forged in a three-year stint at Genoa in which he played with a back four in only about a fifth of his games in charge. As it turned out, he used a back four in only one of his five games at Inter – the Champions League home defeat by Trabzonspor.

His sides have always been noted for their quick tempo and high offside line, and the 3-4-3 shape that he favoured. Some coaches, such as Fabio Capello, are tactical pragmatists, willing to shift formation according to circumstance; others, like Gasperini, have a model towards which they try to mould their squads. If Inter owner Massimo Moratti didn't want to watch his side playing a high-octane 3-4-3 – and his comment, shortly before the season began, that he thought Gasperini would change to a back four suggested he didn't – then why on earth did he appoint an evangelist for 3-4-3 in the first place?

Moratti...puzzling

When playing a high defensive line, midfielders like Cambiasso and Sneijder must quickly close down the player in possession to prevent him having the time and opportunity to pick out a ball over the top

> Gasperini decided Sneijder didn't work in his midfield, starting him on the bench at Palermo then bringing him on as a wide man up front

Question of position... Wesley Sneijder holds off Novara's Ivan Radovanovic

The difficulty, as was widely predicted, is that it's hard to imagine a squad less suited to Gasperini's model than Inter.

Three at the back can be a way of protecting slow defenders by supporting them with a sweeper, but in Gasperini's system the three play in a line, strung across the pitch, protected by a combination of their positioning and the pressing of the midfield. However, a high line demands pace so that if the ball is played over the top the defence are able to get back to cover. For two of the three defensive spots, the trio of Lucio, Walter Samuel and Cristian Chivu have a combined age of 96, which places great responsibility on Andrea Ranocchia, who isn't that fast anyway.

Similarly, the high line is only effective if the midfield are quick to press the opposition when they are in possession. Key to Inter's midfield, though, are Javier Zanetti, the captain, who is 38, Dejan Stankovic, who is 33, and Wesley Sneijder, who has increasingly come to define himself as a midfield creator, almost an anachronistic No10. None are natural fits for the Gasperini style.

On arriving at Inter, Gasperini soon decided that Sneijder didn't work in his midfield, starting him on the bench in the 4-3 defeat at Palermo and then bringing him on to play as one of the wide men up front. Sneijder, not surprisingly, didn't look comfortable chugging up and down the left flank, but he did drift inside twice to contribute to the two goals Inter scored in the second half.

"Sneijder is a champion, but I do not use a playmaker, so I tried to put him lower on the field, then higher and close

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INTERNAZIONALE, AWAY v NOVARA 1-3
SERIE A, 20.09.2011

Exposed...Julio Cesar and Cambiasso look on in anguish as Schalke score at the San Siro

On his way...Gasperini reacts angrily during Inter's defeat at Novara

With only three of Gasperini's 10 outfield players for Internazionale being used in what might be considered their natural positions, the result was disjointed football

INTERNAZIONALE, HOME v SCHALKE 2-5
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, Q-F, 1ST LEG, 05.04.11

to the goal," said Gasperini. "I tried everything and nothing worked."

The wing-backs, Maicon and Yuto Nagatomo, perhaps, would probably have relished Gasperini's system but, unfortunately for the new coach, Maicon's injury problems meant that the relatively inexperienced Jonathan or the ageing Zanetti had to fill in on the right.

Although Inter's centre-forward Diego Milito was one of the few to seem relatively happy with the system, it was the forward line that seemed to cause Inter's new coach most consternation.

"With [Samuel] Eto'o sold, I wanted two players: Napoli's Ezequiel Lavezzi and Genoa's Rodrigo Palacio," said Gasperini. "We could not spend any cash? Fine, but we could [try to] sell Wesley Sneijder, Goran Pandev, Davide Santon, McDonald Mariga and Sulley Muntari. With two wide players, and Diego Milito or Giampaolo Pazzini in the centre, there were no problems: they could all play 30 games, in Serie A, Champions League and the Italian Cup. Instead, came Diego Forlan."

Disjointed football

Under Uruguay national coach Oscar Tabarez, Forlan has proved himself one of the most tactically versatile forwards in the world – but he is not a winger. Nor is Ricky Alvarez, Inter's baffling summer signing from Velez Sarsfield. With only three of the outfield 10 players – plus perhaps Esteban Cambiasso, if we're being generous – playing in what might be considered their natural positions, the result was disjointed football. Five games brought a draw and four defeats, and Gasperini was gone. But, as he said, why appoint him? If Moratti wanted to rejuvenate and remould the squad – and, frankly, with their narrowness which was so brutally exposed by Schalke in the Champions League last season, it's not just the age of the players that makes Inter look outmoded - then he had to give his coach more time and be more aware of what was needed in the transfer market.

If Moratti wanted somebody to coax this squad through another season, making the best of ageing resources, then Claudio Ranieri, appointed to succeed Gasperini, was probably a better choice from the start.

In the two decades before calciopoli opened the way from them, Inter were undermined by a culture of short-termism, with vast sums being spent without any coherent plan. That tradition, it seems, remains strong. WS

ClubFocus

SHAKHTAR DONETSK

Making dreams come true

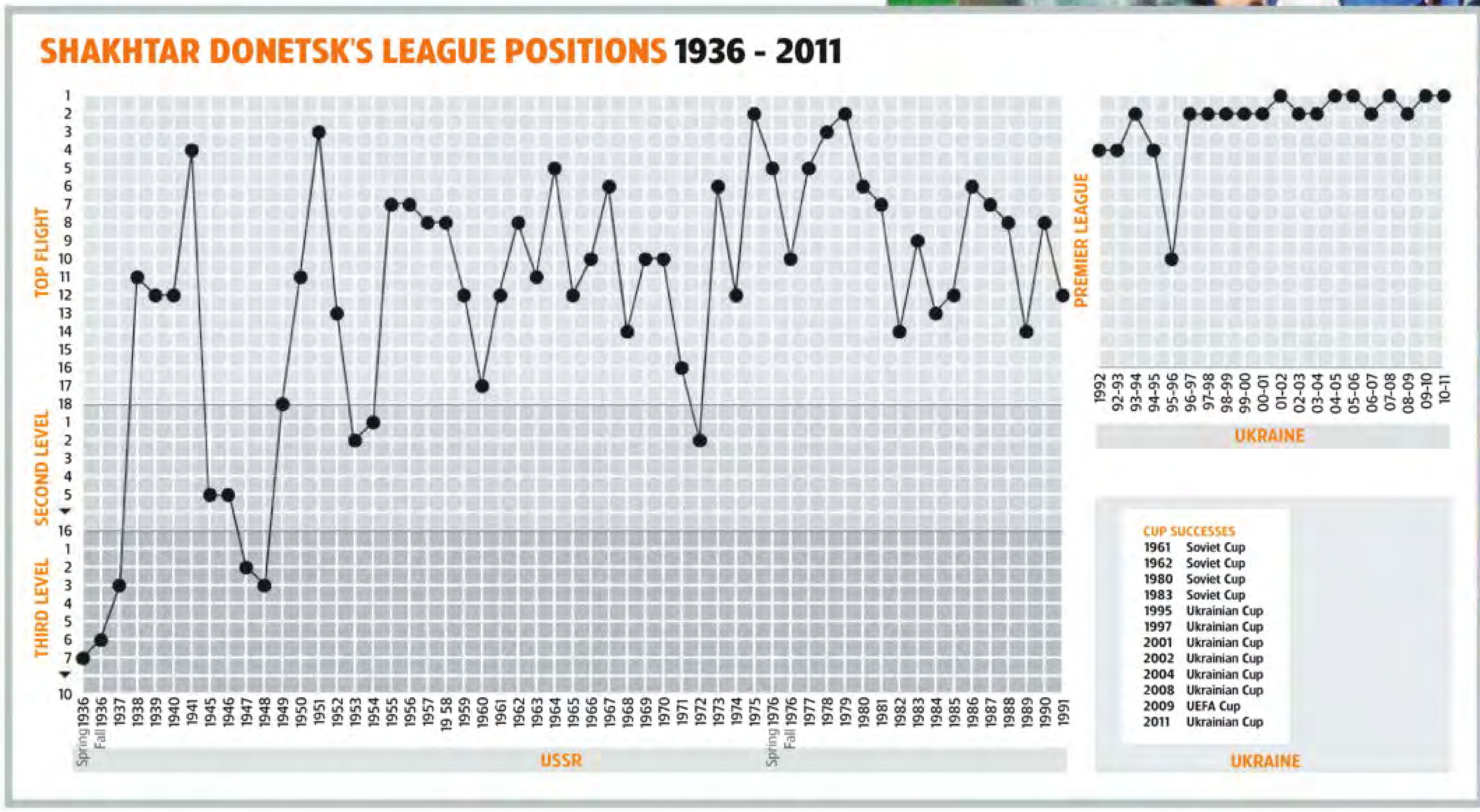
Backed by billionaire owner Rinat Akhmetov, Shakhtar Donetsk have serious ambitions to conquer Europe. **Oleg Zadernovsky reports**

Over the past decade, Shakhtar Donetsk have emerged as the most powerful club in Ukraine and are living proof that the dreams of an owner can alter a team's destiny for ever.

Just ask Mircea Lucescu. In April 2009 his fate hung by a thread and the wily Romanian coach did not expect the five-year contract he had signed in May 2004 to be renewed, even though three Premier League titles had been delivered during his tenure. The establishment of a domestic monopoly had only been part of his mission in Donetsk and he had bigger fish to fry.

Qualification for the group stage of the Champions League remained out of reach. Two 1-0 defeats, home and away by Sporting Lisbon, in the autumn of 2008 had again stopped Shakhtar in

On the up...Akhmetov is hoisted by players and staff after the club's Ukrainian league triumph last season



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State of the art...Shakhtar's Donbass Arena will stage Euro 2012 matches

Continental shift...Luiz Adriano is one of the successful Brazilian imports

> "I decided if we reached the UEFA Cup semi-finals Lucescu could stay"
> Rinat Akhmetov follows his dream

the qualifying rounds, causing unrest in both dressing room and boardroom. Fans called for Lucescu's head and his departure looked almost inevitable...until owner Rinat Akhmetov had a dream.

"A week before the UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg against Marseille I had dreamt that our club lost 1-0," recalls Akhmetov. "One day before the game I woke up in a cold sweat after another dream where Shakhtar were thrashed heavily by the visitors. So, I decided if we reached the semi-finals, Lucescu could stay in Donetsk."

A confident 4-1 win over Marseille secured Lucescu a new two-year deal and that was followed by a memorable 2-1 victory over Werder Bremen in the UEFA Cup Final in Istanbul.

"The trust of the president was the most vital factor in our European triumph," says Lucescu. "Rinat Akhmetov has something in common with [Internazionale president] Massimo Moratti, with whom I worked for a while in Milan. Both love football more than money. Moratti had great patience to lead his club to Champions League success. The same goes for Akhmetov. He has invested heavily in the club infrastructure, signing quality players and developing the youth academy. He never stops learning and asks the same from us. After fulfilling one challenge he is already thinking about the next one.

"After the UEFA Cup win and reaching the last eight of the Champions League last season, he definitely wants more from both the players and me."

Welsh origins

If John Hughes were alive today, he would be amazed at the way football has developed in Donetsk, where Shakhtar's state-of-the-art Donbass Arena is getting set to host games at next summer's European Championship. The Welshman established a metallurgical industry in the region at the end of the 19th

THE POWER CURVE

The movers and shakers at Shakhtar

RINAT AKHMETOV

The son of a coal miner, he is the principal shareholder of System Capital Management, who are the main sponsors of Shakhtar and the largest industrial group in the Ukraine, with assets of around £10billion. Has invested £900million since becoming president in 1996.

MIRCEA LUCESCU

Vastly experienced and successful Romanian coach who has won league titles in three different countries, including five with Shakhtar. Won the UEFA Super Cup with Turkish side Galatasaray in 2000 and the UEFA Cup with Shakhtar in 2009.

SERGEY PALKIN

Recruited by the club as finance director in June 2003 and appointed CEO in June 2004. Before that, he worked as a senior auditor for Coopers & Lybrand LLP.

JOE PALMER

Joined Shakhtar in January 2010 and tasked with overseeing the club's long-term strategic growth plan. Worked for a variety of brands, including Honda, Royal Mail and Manchester United TV.

PATRICK VAN LEEUVEN

The Dutchman was signed in 2006 after 10 years as coach at Feyenoord's Academy in Rotterdam. Appointed as a director in 2008.

DARIJO SRNA

Influential skipper and motivator, the Croat turned down lucrative offers from Manchester United, Chelsea and Bayern Munich. Destined for a management role at the club.

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Loyal...support for the Miners

Taking the lead...the club shop caters for all tastes

century, producing iron for the Russian rail network, and gave his name to Yuzovka (literally, Hughesovka), the pre-Soviet name for Donetsk. It was British workers and engineers who planted the first football seeds in the city.

Over the years, a club established in 1936 largely to entertain local miners has been transformed into a huge football business which now employs professionals from 15 different nations.

Until World War Two, the club was known as Stakhanovets after a famous local miner, Alexey Stakhanov. The war prevented them building on a famous 2-0 win over reigning USSR champions Dynamo Moscow and, with only three players left from the pre-war team, Shakhtar became a yo-yo club in the Soviet Supreme League until 1955. From then, until the final season of the USSR championship, the "Miners" were relegated only once more – in 1972, followed by an immediate promotion – and became a typical mid-table team, although they won the Soviet Cup four times and were runners-up on a further four occasions.

During the Soviet era, Shakhtar's best players tended to leave for Dynamo Kiev, Ukraine's leading club. "We had no other choice because that was the only club where we could get a call-up for the USSR national team. It was unrealistic to expect it at Shakhtar," recalls ex-Soviet goalkeeper Viktor Chanov.

Serhiy Rebrov was their last big star to be lured to Kiev. "If Akhmetov had been president at that time I would definitely have stayed with the Miners," he said. "I joined Dynamo simply because they were stronger both in financial and football terms. For me, it was a vital step forward."

Following the economic collapse of the early 1990s, Shakhtar were forced to sell their top players, including winger Andrei Kanchelskis who joined Manchester United – whose directors were staggered by what they saw when they arrived in Donetsk to complete the deal in 1991. Criminal networks of organised gangs and corrupt officials had moved quickly to grab the former state assets previously under Communist control and Donetsk, with its numerous metallurgical plants and mines, had one of the highest crime rates in Ukraine.

"I had meetings with two gentlemen purporting to be lawyers from Shakhtar Donetsk," says United's solicitor Maurice Watkins. "After the second meeting I came out of their offices with Ned Kelly, the head of security at Old Trafford, surrounded by armed police.

"We were amazed. It transpired the police were there to protect the so-called lawyers. It was certainly a dangerous time."

Murdered...previous club president Bragin

Euro triumph... Lucescu with the UEFA Cup in 2009

Four years later, in October 1995, Shakhtar president Akhat Bragin – one of the men Watkins had dealt with – was blown to pieces along with five bodyguards. He had been in the VIP area shortly after kick-off in the league game against Tavriya. The club's PR director Mark Levitsky, then a TV commentator at the match, recalls: "The players ran off the pitch in panic and the match was abandoned. Around the president's box there was a lot of blood and pieces of human remains." Bragin was identified only by a hand with his golden Rolex watch still attached to the wrist.

Bragin, who had escaped an attempt on his life a month earlier at a UEFA Cup game against Club Brugge of Belgium, was succeeded by his No2, Akhmetov, who had avoided the

PROFIT AND LOSS

Shakhtar had a record turnover in 2009-10, with revenues of £44.45million boosted by growing commercial income (£10.2m, up from £5.85m the previous season) and player sales of more than £30m (compared with £8.7m in 2008-09). However, the club still recorded a loss of more than £20m as expenditure grew from £53m to £64.5m. That figure included £6.5m spent on the club's academy, but owner Rinat Akhmetov covered the loss through his company SCM (System Capital Management).

The opening of the Donbass Arena has offered new commercial opportunities, with more seats for season-ticket holders and improved facilities for fans. The sale of corporate boxes brought in money for the first time in 2009-10 (£2.6m), but domestic TV rights revenues remained low, with £300,000 paid out in 2009-10, compared with £500,000 in 2008-09.

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carnage after being held up in traffic. Regional power concentrated in one pair of hands made Akhmetov the richest man in Ukraine and he set about changing the fortunes of his childhood love.

Realising there was no chance of attracting big players to the bleak mining city of Donetsk without special infrastructure, he invested heavily in a high-tech training complex at Kirsha, designed by British architect Robin Williams. Covering 43 hectares, and with luxury rooms for players and staff, it also has an elite medical and rehabilitation centre, restaurants, eight grass and artificial full-size pitches, a fully lit and heated indoor area and even a large pond inhabited by black swans.

Akhmetov next spent on top-level foreign professionals, lured for their football knowledge. The first newcomer, Italian coach Nevio Scala, soon confirmed the sense of this policy by guiding the Miners to their first Ukraine title in 2002. Forward Andriy Vorobey, now with Metalist, says: "Communism ended at Shakhtar with the arrival of Scala. He separated training and private life. He trusted us and treated us like true professionals. Before him, we were spied on by club staff day and night."

Four months after his triumph, however, Scala was fired after a 5-1 defeat by Austria Vienna in the UEFA Cup. His successor, Germany's Bernd Schuster, survived nine months before being replaced by Lucescu in May 2004. Under his care the Miners have won five domestic titles and became only the second Ukrainian team to win a European title with their 2009 UEFA Cup success.

The elite Donbass Arena has become a symbol of regional pride. Since it was opened in September 2009, Shakhtar have had the highest home attendance, averaging 32,480 in the league and 48,000 at European matches.

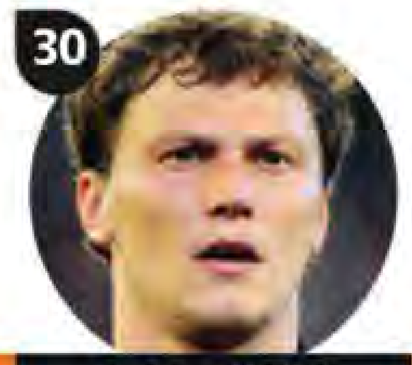
Shakhtar's domestic domination is no surprise given 45-year-old Akhmetov has spent almost £900m during his time in charge. The annual budget now stands at £64.5m, allowing the club to maintain a squad containing numerous Ukraine internationals along with 12 top-class foreigners, many recruited from Brazil.

Around £258m has been invested in the 52,000-capacity stadium, while £6.5m is spent annually on the academy, from which the likes of Yaroslav Rakitskiy and Vitaliy Vitsenets have graduated.

But Akhmetov still dreams: this time of winning the Champions League. "I will be very disillusioned if we can only remember our six Ukraine titles and the UEFA Cup," he says. "I'm not interested in those any more. Most of all, I'm interested in what will happen in the next five or 10 years, when the Champions Cup will be placed for our fans in the centre of the Donbass Arena." WS

THE SQUAD

GOALKEEPERS



Andriy PYATOV

Age 27 (26.08.84)
Signed in 2007 from Vorskla Poltava, he was first choice until the arrival of Rybka. A member of Ukraine's 2006 World Cup squad.

Olexandr RYBKA

Age 24 (10.04.87)
Signed in June from Kharkiv, he was previously with Dynamo Kiev for four seasons. Originally signed as back-up after the departure of Rustam Khudzhamov on loan to Metalurh Donetsk.

Artem TETENKO

Age 20 (12.02.91)
Still waiting for his debut after leaving the club's academy in 2008. A Ukraine under-21 international, he has been capped at all levels from under-16 to under-19.

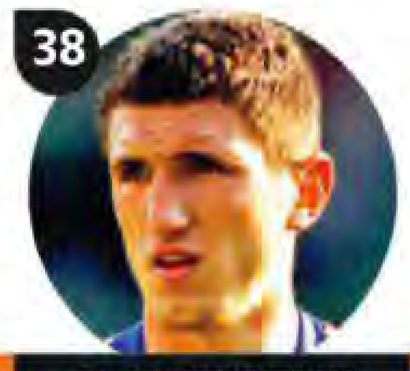
DEFENDERS

Dmytro CHYGRYNSKIY

Age 24 (07.11.86)
Made his Shakhtar debut at 17 and, after a short loan at Metalurh Zaporizhya, established himself as an intelligent centre-back. Moved to Barcelona in 2009 for a club record £22m, returning the following year for £14m.

Olexandr CHYZHOV

Age 25 (10.08.86)
A product of Vorskla Poltava's youth system, he is a sharp, steadfast but inconsistent stopper. Failed so far to fulfil his potential since joining Shakhtar in 2008.



Serhiy KRYVTSOV

Age 20 (15.03.91)
A graduate of Metalurh Zaporizhya's academy. A promising right-sided defender with great scope for development. An under-21 international, he signed a five-year deal with Shakhtar in 2009.

MIDFIELDERS

ALEX TEIXEIRA (Bra)

Age 21 (06.01.90)
An inventive, attacking player who was signed in December 2009 from Vasco da Gama for £5m. Capped by Brazil at under-17 and under-20 levels.

FERNANDINHO (Bra)

Age 26 (04.05.85)
Impressed at the 2003 World Youth Championship, scoring the winner in the Final against Spain. Joined in 2005 from Atletico Paranaense. Ukraine Premier League player of the year in 2008.

Olexiy GAI

Age 28 (06.11.82)
Experienced holding midfielder with great vision and versatility who has been a Ukraine international since 2002.

Plus: (14) Vasyl **KOBIN** (Age 26, 24.05.85)

FORWARDS

DENTINHO (Bra)

Age 22 (19.01.89)
A graduate of Corinthians' academy, he joined Shakhtar in May for £6.6m. Fast, skilful and a confident finisher.

DOUGLAS COSTA (Bra)

Age 21 (14.09.90)
Signed in January 2010 for £5.5m from Gremio. The right winger was tracked by Manchester United, Manchester City and Liverpool, but has said he will stay with Shakhtar at least until the end of the current season.

EDUARDO (Cro)

Age 28 (25.02.83)
Born in Brazil but capped by Croatia, he joined Shakhtar from Arsenal for £6m in July 2010 after recovering from a terrible leg injury sustained two years earlier. Mainly used as a substitute.

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THE KIT

Home kit

Second kit

THE COACH

Mircea LUCESCU (Rom)
Age 66 (29.07.45)
An English-style manager with control over player recruitment, he joined Shakhtar from Turkish club Besiktas in 2004 and combined young and skilful Brazilian starlets with local and east European talents to make the club the dominant domestic force and a powerful unit in continental competition. His second term at Shakhtar, with an annual salary of £2.7million, will expire in May next year, but owner Rinat Akhmetov will do everything he can to keep hold of the most successful coach in the club's history.

Olexandr KUCHER
Age 28 (22.10.82)
International central defender signed from Metalist Kharkiv in 2006. A reliable man-marker who is strong in the tackle and confident on the ball, but prone to positional mistakes.

Yaroslav RAKITSKIY
Age 22 (03.08.89)
Given his chance in the first team when Chygrynskiy was sold to Barcelona. Moved from the role of holding midfielder to centre-half, he emerged as a natural leader with his excellent timing and reading of the game.

Razvan RAT (Rom)
Age 30 (26.05.81)
Quick and agile first-choice left-back who has made more than 200 appearances since joining from Rapid Bucharest in 2003. Romania international who likes to get forward.

Vyacheslav SHEVCHUK
Age 32 (13.05.79)
Strong, brave and industrious left-back who returned to the club in 2005 after a spell with Dnipro.

Darijo SRNA (Cro)
Age 29 (01.05.82)
Influential captain blessed with great vision and passing ability. Signed in 2003 from Hajduk Split, he is the league's best-paid player with a monthly salary of £335,000. Played at Euro 2004 and 2008, and the 2006 World Cup finals.

Tomas HUBSCHMAN (CzR)
Age 30 (04.09.81)
Joined Shakhtar for £2.7m in 2004 after helping Sparta Prague reach the quarter-finals of the Champions League. A strong tackler and hard worker in the centre of midfield.

JADSON (Bra)
Age 28 (05.10.83)
Playmaker signed from Atletico Paranaense for £4.5m in 2005. Scored the winning goal in extra-time of the 2009 UEFA Cup Final. A member of Brazil's squad at this year's Copa America.

Henrik MKHITARYAN (Arm)
Age 22 (21.01.89)
Armenian player of the year in 2009, he won four domestic titles with Pyunik Yerevan in his homeland, he joined Shakhtar for £6.6m in 2010 from city rivals Metalurh.

Taras STEPANENKO
Age 22 (08.08.89)
A graduate of the Metalurh Zaporizhzhya academy, he was signed by Shakhtar in 2010 after his performances for Ukraine's under-21 side. Defensive midfielder who is prone to injuries, which may hamper his progress.

WILLIAN (Bra)
Age 23 (09.08.88)
A club record signing at £17m when joining from Corinthians in August 2007. A left winger blessed with typical Brazilian talent and a scorer of spectacular goals. South American Youth Championship winner with Brazil in 2007.

LUIZ ADRIANO (Bra)
Age 24 (12.04.87)
Joined Shakhtar for £2.7m shortly after helping Internacional to beat Barcelona and lift the Club World Cup in 2006. A target man, he has picked up three league titles, two Ukrainian Cups, one Ukrainian Super Cup and the UEFA Cup.

Marcelo MORENO (Bol)
Age 24 (18.06.87)
Failed to deliver anything serious so far since his £8m move from Cruzeiro in May 2008. Loaned to Werder Bremen in 2009 and Wigan Athletic in 2010, he could be sent out again in the January transfer window.

Yevhen SELEZNYOV
Age 26 (20.07.85)
Returned to the club for £4m after an excellent campaign with Dnipro last season, where he finished as the league's top scorer with 17 goals. Direct and powerful, but his control can sometimes let him down.

THE STADIUM

DONBASS ARENA (capacity 51,504)
Unveiled in August 2009 and costing £258m, this is the first stadium in eastern Europe designed and built to UEFA elite standards. The second-largest in Ukraine after the Olympic Stadium in Kiev, it hosts various cultural events as well as football.

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THIAGO ALCANTARA

COUNTRY	Spain
CLUB	Barcelona
POSITION	Midfielder
AGE	20 (11.04.91)
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	August 2011, v Italy
CAPS	3 (0 goals)
HONOURS	2011 Euro Under-21 championship, 2011 La Liga, 2011 Spanish Super Cup, 2010 Spanish Super Cup

Spain's resounding 6-0 victory at home to Liechtenstein in September may have secured their place at next summer's European Championship in Poland and Ukraine, but that was not what most excited the Spanish fans. Qualification was, of course, good news, but it was always expected. Better news came with the introduction of second-half substitute Thiago Alcantara.

Although he had made his debut in a friendly against Italy less than a month earlier – after which Mario Balotelli described him as the "greatest" of all Spain's players – a first competitive game for the midfielder born in Italy to Brazilian parents ended all arguments over where his international future lay.

Vicente Del Bosque's decision to fast track the youngster into the seniors felt like a political move to ward off his other suitors, but no one questioned the reasoning behind such a ploy. During the summer, Thiago had scored a wonderful goal in the Final as Spain won the Euro Under-21 Championship and Del Bosque's plan to secure his future was considered the correct one.

But there is now a feeling Thiago may end up playing an important role on the national stage earlier than anyone had expected. He is certainly doing so at Barcelona, where coach Pep Guardiola sought to bring him through slowly last season.

Combining his first-team duties with games for Barcelona B, he made just six starts last term, and when Cesc Fabregas arrived during the summer some wondered if that might arrest Thiago's development. Guardiola, however, is very conscious of the need to allow for a logical progression within the Barca midfield, completing cycles without having to rush players through. Xavi is aged 31, while Andres Iniesta is 27. The addition of 24-year-old Fabregas and Thiago completes the pattern, and they have played assiduously so far – and they have done so together.

Fabregas scored in each of Barcelona's first five games while Thiago, who renewed his contract in the summer, began the season as a starter against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu and was in the side for five of the first six league games, also playing once in the Champions League. He has played well, too, scoring once and providing two assists in La Liga, with another assist in the Champions League.

Although Guardiola has one or two minor concerns about Thiago's ability to retain possession, there is no doubt about his talent. He even has other players – who are not normally given to raving about opponents – talking about him, with Villarreal's Borja Valero describing the Barca boy as "my weakness – what a player!" Luis Milla, Spain's Under-21 coach, calls him "technically gifted", Santiago Segurola, the country's most respected football writer, defined him as a "virtuoso" and the newspaper *El Pais* likened him to a circus performer.

> Not since Michael Laudrup has anyone so often seen a player "pass with the eyes" – looking one way and playing the other

The son of 1994 Brazil World Cup-winner Mazinho and a former professional volleyball player, there is something special about Thiago. His movement is unusual, his touch impeccable: soft and swift yet effortless. There is also a glimpse of fantasy about his play. Not since Michael Laudrup has anyone seen a player so often "pass with the eyes", looking one way and playing the other. And not since Deco have Barcelona fans seen someone use the sole of his boot so often. Thiago is like a futsal player, controlling the ball with his studs and then rolling it across the turf. He stands out immediately .

At times it can look as if he is teasing other players. But the more you watch him, the more you realise there is a reason for it. This is simply the way he plays. And if it looks aesthetic, it is effective too.

He may have been pushed through quickly, but that is because Thiago is a special footballer. And now he is a Spanish footballer, too.

Sid Lowe

FloreKaff.com

Antoine GRIEZMANN

COUNTRY	France
CLUB	Real Sociedad (Spa)
POSITION	Winger
AGE	20 (21.03.91)
HONOURS	2010 Euro Under-19 Championship

An influential member of the France side that won last year's European Under-19 title, the Spain-based youngster has politely responded to all the speculation by making it plain that he has no immediate plans to leave Sociedad.

"It's still too early for such a big step," he explains. "I want to stay and progress where I am. I don't want to leave here to sit on the bench. I need to play regularly and that would be impossible at Barca."

Given his ability to create opportunities for others from the flank, while still seizing goalscoring opportunities himself, a move to a more prestigious La Liga address must only be a matter of time.

For the best part of two decades, French club sides and the national federation have whined long and loud about overseas outfits stealing their best young talent. But in the case of Griezmann, an early start on the migrant trail has worked wonders. Told by a number of Ligue 1 teams that he was too small and lightweight to warrant a place in their academies, the boy from the Burgundy wine-producing town of Macon finally got the break he yearned for at the age of 13.

During a trial match for Montpellier against Paris Saint-Germain, his virtuosity caught the eye of a Real Sociedad scout and, after a successful trial in the Basque country, he was offered a youth contract. Four years later he was promoted to the first-team squad and he has not looked back since, not only becoming a cult hero at the Anoeta stadium but also earning himself a legion of admirers the length and breadth of the country.

"Real Sociedad has been like a family for me," says Griezmann. "They made me welcome and made sure I was settled. Early on, I boarded in the home of the club's French scout and they even allowed me to hop across the border each day to go to school in Bayonne before returning to train in the evenings. They took good care of me and I'll always be grateful.

"My time as a pro here couldn't have gone any better. First, winning the second division, and now having the chance to face Real Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

"I love playing in Spain. Here the game is as spectacular as you could hope for. The emphasis is on technique and teams go out to play good football. Always. I adore that. There's never any dull, dead games."

His goal celebrations are not exactly boring either. In a game against Deportivo La Coruna last season he marked his finish by pretending to drive a sponsor's truck which was parked next to the pitch, then after scoring in a 4-0 win away to Getafe he decided to wave a Basque flag.

"Antoine is an important player, but he went way too far on this occasion," said former Sociedad coach Martin Lasarte of the latter celebration. "He's still young and has to mature."

Nick Bidwell

Lacina TRAORE

COUNTRY	Ivory Coast
CLUB	Kuban Krasnodar (Rus)
POSITION	Forward
AGE	21 (20.05.90)
PREVIOUS CLUBS	Stade d'Abidjan, CFR Cluj (Rom)
HONOURS	2010 Romanian Liga, 2010 Romanian Super Cup

Bought from Romanian side CFR Cluj for £5million earlier this year, Kuban Krasnodar's Ivorian striker is often compared to Togo and Tottenham Hotspur star Emmanuel Adebayor for his unashamedly egocentric pursuit of scoring goals.

"He lives to put the ball in the back of the net," says Kuban Krasnodar coach and former Romania full-back Dan Petrescu. "Some would argue that he's selfish at times, that he usually goes for the shot rather than passing to a better-placed teammate. My reply is that he's a striker. He's meant to be obsessed with applying the finishing touch."

A product of the renowned Ivorian football school ASEC Mimosas before starting his senior career at Stade d'Abidjan, Traore cost CFR Cluj just £35,000 in 2008 and he spent his first season and a half in Romania on the senior-side fringes, playing mostly reserve-team football. But during the 2009-10 campaign everything clicked into place for the left-footer, who stepped up to lead the line for the side as they claimed the Romanian title.

"We knew we were on firm ground when signing Traore," adds Petrescu. "He had already done well in another eastern European championship in Romania with Cluj and had looked good for them in the Champions League last season. We thought he would acclimatise quickly to the Russian league and so it has turned out.

"We're just glad we managed to convince him to come here. He had a lot of other mainstream European clubs circling him, so we had to move fast to put ourselves at the head of the queue."

CFR Cluj owner Arpad Paszkany used to say of Traore: "He is our jewel; he's been a game-changer for us." Petrescu doesn't disagree.

Nick Bidwell

ROMULO

COUNTRY	Brazil
CLUB	Vasco da Gama
AGE	21 (19.09.90)
POSITION	Midfielder
PREVIOUS CLUB	Porto de Caruaru
INTERNATIONAL DEBUT	September 2011, v Argentina
CAPS	1 (0 goals)
HONOURS	2011 Brazilian Cup

Normally, with their place in the following year's Libertadores guaranteed, the winners of the Brazilian Cup usually take their foot off the pedal for the remainder of the domestic championship. This year, though, Vasco da Gama have hit the accelerator. Even shrugging off the stroke suffered by their coach, Ricardo Gomes, they have kicked on in search of the league title, and key to their charge is the growing influence of 21-year-old Romulo Borges Monteiro.

"I look to go in hard, but only to get the ball," says Romulo, who operates in the centre of a midfield three. "That's why I don't commit many fouls. Set-pieces are increasingly dangerous, so I try hard to avoid conceding them."

However, it is after he has nicked the ball away from an opponent that Romulo really shines. He gives the pass and is already on the move to receive the return, supplying a pleasing fluidity and dynamism to his team's play. He can also pick out a penetrative forward pass.

If Eder Luis down the right has often been Vasco's most dangerous weapon, it is in part because Romulo has been winning the battle in the middle. And although he now fills a more defensive role than in his first-division debut season last term, he also has the lung power and technique to arrive in the box and finish in the air or on the ground.

As well as stamina, Romulo has also demonstrated considerable willpower to make his mark in Rio de Janeiro after humble beginnings in the remote north-eastern state of Piaui, which he left aged 15 and moved 400 miles away to join Porto de Caruaru.

A youth tournament in Sao Paulo in 2007 brought him wider recognition. Gremio were among those who were interested and he also trained with Benfica in Portugal and Atletico Paranaense. However, when Gremio's director of football Rodrigo Caetano moved to Vasco last year he finally got his man, explaining: "I'm happy to have spotted the potential of a player good enough to play for Brazil."

Romulo's call-up to the national squad came for the two games against Argentina in September, for which only home-based players were considered. He sat out the first – a tepid 0-0 draw – but then helped to give the team rhythm in a thoroughly satisfactory debut in the return, which Brazil won 2-0.

It was a performance that stakes a claim for promotion to the full-strength squad and Romulo says: "I have to keep thinking about getting better; trying to shoot more at goal, for example."

The 21-year-old has already done enough to become a significant force in the Brazilian championship and, with child-like enthusiasm, he says: "Now when people collect a sticker album, my sticker is in there too. It's amazing, something I never imagined.

"My album is already full – and I'm there!"

If his current progress can be maintained, Romulo may well have the chance to collect himself again when the 2014 World Cup sticker album appears.

Tim Vickery

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- Soccer Cities: northern Spain
- Arab Spring: Football's role in North Africa's revolutions

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Soccer Cities Budapest

Peterjon Cresswell takes a tour of the Hungarian capital

Although provincial teams now dominate Hungarian football, the Nemzeti Bajnoksag I (NB I) is still home to four clubs from the country's capital – which means visitors are guaranteed at least one top-flight game on any given weekend.

Divided by the Nepliget park, city rivals **Ferencvaros** and **MTK** are the country's two most successful clubs, winning every title from 1903 until 1929 between them, and boasting a combined total of 51 championships (28 and 23 respectively). MTK are by tradition a club with Jewish origins, while Ferencvaros – due to much of the anti-Communist uprising of 1956 taking place in the area surrounding their stadium – have a big right-wing following, so racial undertones now blight any game between the two teams. However, their intense rivalry is currently on hold as MTK were relegated at the end of last season and they now play in the second-tier NB II.

The city's third club, **Ujpest**, were originally a police team who broke the monopoly of the big two in 1930 and are next in the all-time champions list with 20 league titles. They have also replaced MTK as Ferencvaros' big derby rivals and any game between the two calls for a massive police presence, with visiting supporters being bused in and out for matches. Ujpest's north Budapest derby with **Vasas** is rarely as passionate.

One bright spot for the capital this season has been the return to form of **Honved**, who were originally the Hungarian army side.

Meanwhile, MTK's biggest derby this term involves a walk of less than five minutes to face fellow second-tier side **BKV Elore**. WS

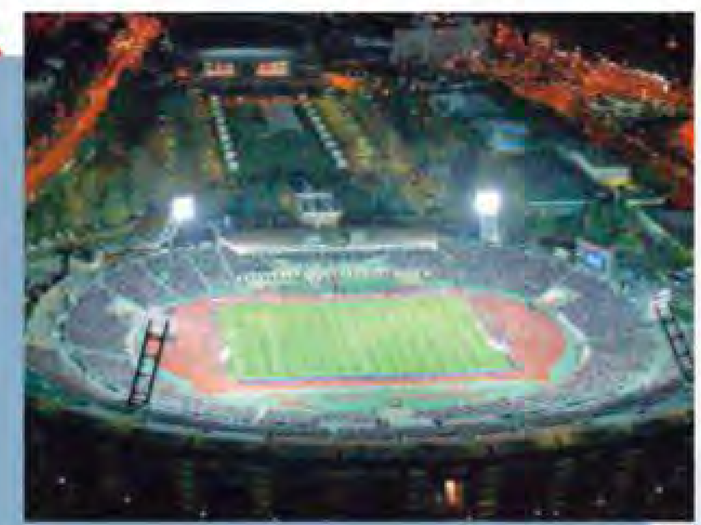
Big day in Budapest...Ujpest (in stripes) take on Ferencvaros

Photo: Zsolt Reti

NATIONAL SIDE

FERENC PUSKAS STADIUM

Opened in 1953, the former Nepstadion ("people's stadium") was renamed after the country's most famous footballing son in 2002. Next to the metro station of the same name on red line M2, the national stadium has been the subject of much talk of reconstruction. Plans for its closure and rebuilding after October's Euro 2012 qualifier against Finland are still on ice and, for the time being, the capacity remains at 40,000.



MTK

NANDOR HIDEGKUTI STADIUM

Named after one of the club's most famous former players, you might recognise the main stand and gates of the 12,700-capacity ground from when it doubled up as the Colombes in Paris during the cult football film *Escape to Victory*. To reach the stadium, take tram 1 or the 1A line. Visit www.mtkhungaria.hu for ticket details. For a pre-match drink, cross the Sport utca to fellow second-tier side BKV Elore's ground, which is situated opposite.

Photo: www.magyarfutbal.hu

FERENCVAROS

FLORIAN ALBERT STADIUM

Despite plans to transform the arena, which was opened in 1974, into a modern sport and multipurpose complex, the stadium named after the club's star of the 1960s looks pretty sorry for itself these days. There's no bar or restaurant, and only a modest club shop near the main offices where match tickets are sold. See www.ftc.hu for further details. The ground is situated by Nepliget on the blue M3 metro line.

DERBY DAYS

With four Budapest clubs currently in the Hungarian top flight, derbies take place on a regular basis. Match tickets can be bought on the day of a match and will cost about HUF2,000 (£6).

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UJPEST

FERENC SZUSZA STADIUM
The 1999 takeover by local businessmen saved the club and saw the Megyeri ut ground, which was originally built in 1922, transformed into this 13,500-capacity all-seater stadium, which is now named after one of the country's all-time top strikers. From Ujpest-Varoskapu on the M3 blue metro line, take bus 104, 122 or 204 for 10 minutes.

Photo: www.magyarfutball.hu

DIARY DATES

The last Budapest derby before the break is between Vasas and Honved on December 2. The league then closes down for the winter before restarting again on February 24.

VASAS

RUDOLF ILLOVSZKY STADIUM
Named after the coach who was a club figurehead for so many years, the easiest way to reach the 18,000-capacity ground is by bus 32 or 120 from Arpad hid (Arpad bridge). There's a modest bar to the right of the main stand as you approach from Hajdu utca. Visit www.vasassc.hu for ticket details.

BUDAPEST

2 10 M3 2 3 4 E71 M1 M7 5 10 M5 6

5 miles
10 km

BLADE RUNNER

Ferencvaros were bought in 2008 by Sheffield United owner Kevin McCabe. Having acquired Hungary's most titled club, its stadium and the land around it, the English businessman initially oversaw the team's return to the top flight after their earlier enforced relegation due to financial mismanagement. However, grandiose plans to transform the club and its infrastructure have yet to see the light of day and chaos reigns, with McCabe widely reported to be trying desperately to sell his shares.

HONVED

JOZSEF BOZSIK STADIUM
Named after a player from the 1950s, the 10,000-capacity arena is in Kispest, at the terminus of tram 42 from metro station Hatar ut on the blue M3 line. There's a modest cafe in the main building, while the nearby Arena bar is done out in red and black. The Puskas Tribun is the best place for neutrals to watch from and ticket details are available from www.honvedfc.hu.

Photo: www.magyarfutball.hu

BKV ELORE

SPORT UTCAI STADIUM
The second-tier side's 2,500-capacity ground has an authentically retro bar/restaurant that is decorated with pennants from obscure clubs from around Eastern Europe that represent transport workers. For more information visit www.bkveloresc.hu.

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Keir Radnedge

THE INSIDER The expert view on events off the pitch

Unfriendly fire

As Sepp Blatter sets out his proposals for reform of FIFA, the world governing body is still being attacked on all fronts

Pressure points... Blatter and FIFA are leaping from one minefield to another

Michel D'Hooghe is chairman of FIFA's medical commission and he first hit the international spotlight when Diego Maradona, infamously, failed a dope test at the 1994 World Cup finals.

Since then, the Belgian has risen steadily up the football ladder. Back in his native Bruges he was the club doctor who went on to become president of the club, the league and then of the national federation, while also landing up on the executive committee of FIFA.

In the past, D'Hooghe has painted the FIFA ExCo as a group of strangers who have nothing to do with each other from one half-yearly meeting to the next and thus have absolutely no knowledge of what each individual might be up to in his own backyard. So how, he appears to be asking, could any one member have any particular view or knowledge of what any other is up to?

In the run-up to October's ExCo meeting – which had been billed as either the start of a Swiss Revolution or the Triumph of Pessimism – the forces pressing in on the world federation appeared increasingly relentless. For starters, there was the resistance to FIFA of Dilma Rousseff's Brazilian government. Then there was the ongoing action against Mohamed Bin Hammam and a coterie of Caribbean officials, plus the impending CONCACAF exit of Chuck Blazer. Fourthly, on FIFA's own doorstep, there is the war being waged in sport and the civil courts by Swiss club Sion, and, finally, the continued pressure for reform.

> Getting a positive message to a sceptical world will take much work

Above it all, as puppet-master, is FIFA president Sepp Blatter. But even he may occasionally wonder whether some of the strings are becoming too entangled. No wonder FIFA's communications department has been reorganised. Getting a positive message out into a sceptical world will take as much work as new director Walter De Gregorio and his team (which includes the disappointingly downgraded Nicolas Maingot) can put in...and more.

Defiant Brazil digging its heels in over World Cup 2014

Pushing Brazil into serious action to prepare for hosting the 2014 World Cup is the responsibility of Jerome Valcke. But whether, in these troubled times, FIFA's secretary-general should have much of his workload taken up with project chasing is an open question.

I have long held the view FIFA needs splitting into two: one section concentrating on event organisation, the other on the game itself. The secretary-general could then oversee the two, rather than concentrate on one.

Brazil is turning out to be a more complex problem than South Africa. In the case of 2010 it was "only" a question of throwing money and resources at Pretoria and following up relentlessly every step of the way. At least the South Africans, in general, followed orders regarding guarantees, laws, tax status, etc.

Not so with Brazil. The country has enormous football pride and is in no mood to take orders about its laws and customs from faraway Zurich. Hence President Rousseff's government has resisted acquiescing to FIFA demands to take a much tougher line on merchandise piracy, to permit alcohol sales inside the stadia zones (to suit sponsor Budweiser) and to suspend a law halving ticket prices for pensioners and students up to the age of 29.

Is it any wonder Ricardo Teixeira felt so unwell one evening recently that he had to be admitted to hospital and monitored in the cardio unit where he was treated previously?

Teixeira has been distanced from Rousseff's office. Whether that is a purely political decision, whether she is concerned at the investigations piling up against Joao Havelange's former son-in-law, whether she is waiting to see if the Rio prosecutor can persuade the Swiss courts to hand over copies of allegedly incriminating ISL files, or whether she is uneasy that Teixeira heads the Brazilian confederation and World Cup organising authority, who knows?

Sources close to Rousseff say she was not best pleased that her meeting with FIFA in Brussels was with Valcke rather than Blatter. That was a protocol snub which may yet rebound against FIFA and its president. Certainly, old World Cup-winning hero Romario, a lively and independent-minded critic of the establishment, was swift to turn his fire on to FIFA – in particular over the half-price ticket issue which could slice £100million off its expected revenues.

Challenge...Brazilian president Rousseff is resisting FIFA demands to take a tougher line on the organisation of the 2014 World Cup

Romario, whose goals led Brazil to their fourth World Cup triumph in 1994 and who is now a congressman, believes FIFA is raking in more than enough money out of the World Cup as it is. He has criticised state governor Agnelo Queiroz and Rio mayor Eduardo Paes for proposing that the government make up the difference.

On his website, Romario said: "We have our own law and it should be obeyed. Brazil should call a halt to discussions with FIFA about this. Our sovereignty should be respected."

As to who should make up the difference, Romario was in no doubt. "FIFA should pay," he said.

Ethics Committee continues to cast shadow over FIFA

Troubled times... Warner (left) and Bin Hammam have fallen foul of FIFA

Meanwhile, back at FIFA HQ, that unhappy shadow which is the ongoing activity of the Ethics Committee has failed to lift and the skies are still murky.

Top of the bill was Mohamed Bin Hammam, the Asian Football Confederation president, who failed with his objection, before FIFA's appeals panel, against his life ban, and duly welcomed the prospect of heading off down the road to Lausanne and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Not that CAS will fall at his feet. CAS has rebuffed a plea from Bin Hammam – pending a full hearing – for an interim order barring the AFC from appointing China's Zhang Jilong to the presidency and to the FIFA ExCo in his place.

Bin Hammam's "sin", of course, was the alleged attempt to have then-CONCACAF president Jack Warner distribute $40,000-a-time brown envelopes stuffed with cash to delegates at his election-seeking Caribbean Football Union conference in May. Behind him to face FIFA's Ethics Committee came those very delegates who had been "fingered" as a result of the whistle-blowing activities of CONCACAF general-secretary Chuck Blazer.

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Blazer's departure raises more questions than answers

The man who managed the remarkable feat of bringing down both Jack Warner and Mohamed Bin Hammam is retiring as general-secretary of CONCACAF in December after 21 years in the role.

A CONCACAF statement said Chuck Blazer planned to "pursue other career opportunities in the burgeoning industry of international football". It quoted him as saying: "My passion for soccer is undiminished and it is time for me to explore new challenges within this wonderful sport."

Clearly, however, it would have been extremely awkward for everyone within CONCACAF were Blazer to remain in charge while having to work with the Caribbean Football Union members whom he had exposed.

His own statement continued: "Running a governing body has been an incredibly fulfilling job, but there are so many other areas of the sport where, as a senior executive, I will make a great impact. In looking back at my years at CONCACAF, I have great satisfaction in having achieved all my objectives, including unprecedented revenues, new initiatives in competitions and modern technology in administration."

Certainly Blazer's tenure saw CONCACAF revolutionised as a footballing entity and its revenues increase from $140,000 to $40m. As chairman of FIFA's marketing and TV-rights panel, he played a key role in helping secure a $425m deal with Univision and ESPN for rights to the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

Conveniently, his departure will largely end the controversy over the offshore route through which he was rewarded for his duties. Whether a successor will be able to get hold of the vanishing accounts of the CFU – through which Warner allegedly repaid a personal loan – is another matter.

One other side issue concerns whether elected officials of major footballing bodies should be eligible to sit on FIFA's ExCo. Blazer was the only man on the ExCo blessed with this dual status. He sits on the ExCo as representative for Northern America and intends carrying on to the end of his present term in 2013.

Warner's help

When Blazer was first designated, with Warner's help, to succeed Guillermo Canedo on the FIFA ExCo, he faced a stiff challenge from Alan Rothenberg, who had headed the 1994 World Cup organisation and become president of US Soccer. Rothenberg felt he should have been chosen and took his protest to FIFA. In the end it was the late David Will, then British vice-president and chairman of FIFA's legal committee, who came down in favour of Blazer. Where there was a Will there was a way...

This means the next general-secretary of CONCACAF will not benefit from similar status or access. Ariel Alvarado of Panama, a member of its executive, is one early tip, but it may depend on who wins the upcoming election to succeed Warner as CONCACAF president.

Could it be Blazer himself? Surely not – but football is, after all, a funny old game, both on and off the pitch.

Whistle-blower...Blazer

Dick Pound puts the boot in

Scathing...Pound believes FIFA has lost its credibility

With all that is going on, Blatter and Co might think they have a decent excuse for putting FIFA on the back burner. Not a chance.

The vultures are all there, from the media – and the UK media in particular – the entertaining FIFA/ISL scourge Andrew Jennings and now Dick Pound, the IOC member who was behind the creation of anti-doping agency WADA.

He has accused sports officials, governments, regulators and athletes of complacency in the face of a level of competition corruption which has, he believes, become endemic. Above all, the Canadian picked on FIFA as being even more flawed than the IOC – even in the worst days of the latter's Salt Lake scandal – in its response to internal misbehaviour. And that is some criticism.

Pound dismissed all those cascading statements in support of fair play as "pious" and described the recent FIFA scandal as "a far more serious and extensive problem than the relatively narrow conduct, improper as it was, of a few IOC members".

He said: "FIFA has fallen far short of a credible demonstration that it recognises the problems it faces, that it has the will to solve them, that it is willing to be transparent about what it is doing and what it finds, and that its future conduct will be such that the public can be confident in the sports' governance.

"At the moment, I do not believe that such confidence exists or would be justified if it did."

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Court battles...Constantin

Sion versus the world

Mohamed Bin Hammam is not the only one trudging in and out of the courts; so is Christian Constantin, the president of Swiss club Sion who is causing sports/law mayhem.

Clearly, football would become ungovernable if players, officials, clubs, leagues and national associations ran to the civil courts with every grievance. That was the concern behind the creation, in 1984, of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Football, along with all other major sports federations, amended its statutes to bind all members to an acceptance, as a last resort, of CAS decisions over disputes about contracts, transfers, doping punishments, etc. However, the problem with CAS is that, as a quasi-judicial body, its procedures take time – too much time for it to respond effectively to the demands of fast-moving football. This has proved an exacerbating feature in the confrontation between Sion, on the one side, and FIFA, UEFA and the Swiss federation on the other.

In January 2008 Sion signed goalkeeper Essam El Hadary from Al Ahly. The Egyptian club objected, but it was not until June 2009 that FIFA's disputes resolution committee found against Sion and imposed a two-window transfer ban. Sion appealed to CAS, which lifted the ban pending its own ruling. But CAS did not deliver this until June 2010, a year after FIFA's verdict and two-and-a-half years after the "signing". CAS rejected Sion's appeal, thus reinstating the two-window ban. However, Sion believed it came into effect there and then, in mid-summer 2010 – by which time they had, conveniently, signed at least three new players – and was completed with the closing of the January 2011 window.

FIFA, by contrast, deemed the ban applied to this year's two subsequent full windows. Hence the furore when Sion signed half-a-dozen players in the summer and fielded some in the Swiss Super League and against Celtic in the Europa League.

Out of sync

With the Europa League group stage due to start, appeal procedures within CAS, the Swiss federal courts and UEFA had fallen out of sync. Sion beat Celtic in the play-offs, but were expelled by UEFA for fielding ineligible players and Celtic took their place. Sion – with CAS not ready to hear an appeal – went to the civil courts, which ordered their reinstatement.

UEFA ignored the court and told Celtic to carry on. They lost 2-0 to Atletico in Madrid but the next day the Swiss civil court ruled in favour of Sion and declared the Atletico game void.

UEFA rejected this verdict, insisting Sion had contravened both its and FIFA's statutes by going to the civil courts in the first place. In addition, UEFA does not accept that regional Swiss courts have jurisdiction over and above CAS.

Winner?...pub landlady Murphy

And also.....

● South African officials looked naive, to say the least, when they failed to read the rules. They were properly punished for playing for a draw against Sierra Leone with failure to reach the African Nations Cup finals. But South Africa do have a point: as so many dead Champions League group games prove, mutual results should not take precedence over goal difference. After all, goal difference represents transparency, everyone's favourite buzz word.

● Franz Beckenbauer, having quit the FIFA ExCo last June, felt free to hail UEFA leader Michel Platini as the natural heir to the FIFA presidency when Sepp Blatter steps down in 2015. Beckenbauer also revealed Swedish veteran Lennart Johansson had wanted him to run for the UEFA presidency, against Platini, in 2007.

● The European Court of Justice ruling in favour of Portsmouth pub landlady Karen Murphy over her use of a Greek decoder card looks like a pyrrhic victory. Barely had the judgment been handed down than the lawyers and accountants were hard at work checking for loopholes and devising new sales formulae which raise as much money as ever.

● Kia Joorabchian claims confusion over the Carlos Tevez bust-up in Munich was the result of misleading impression of the TV pictures of the Manchester City bench and then mistranslation by the TV interpreter in the player's post-match interview. So much for video technology.

● Time was when UEFA pretended the European Union and European law did not exist. How times have changed. Platini recently popped up at the Council of Europe seeking political and legislative backing for the battle against match fixing...and support, in the face of likely legal challenges, for Financial Fairplay.

Read Keir Radnedge's twice weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

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6 of the best Bundesliga youngsters

Nick Bidwell selects the best of a cosmopolitan bunch in the German top flight

1 Almog COHEN (Isr)

NUREMBERG

AGE
23 (01.09.88)
POSITION
Midfielder

Although he has been lambasted for his ability as a coach, German midfield great Lothar Matthaus does know talent when he sees it – and he deserves praise a plenty for kick-starting the career of this engine-room battler.

Back in 2006, while in charge of Israel's Maccabi Netanya, Matthaus was so impressed with the 17-year-old defensive midfielder that he made him a mainstay of his side, and the former *Nationalmannschaft* captain is not at all surprised that the youngster has rarely been found wanting since joining Nuremberg at the start of last season.

"Almog has always reminded me of the old Germany international Jens Jeremies," says Matthaus. "He's an active and hungry fighter. I knew he would make it. He had the talent and ambition. He was determined to improve every day in training."

One of only a handful of Jewish players in the German top flight, Cohen is often likened to Gennaro Gattuso and has the same work ethic and commitment as the Milan and Italy warhorse – not to mention a similar appearance.

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2 Ilkay GUNDOGAN

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

AGE
20 (24.10.90)
POSITION
Midfielder

Bought this summer from Nuremberg in a £3.5million deal, the multi-purpose midfielder has been forced to wrestle with the moral dilemma that has given sleepless nights to innumerable sons of Turkish *gastarbeiter* (migrant worker) parents: who to play for internationally – the land of your forebears or the country where you were born, brought up and educated?

While his old Nuremberg team-mate Mehmet Ekici chose Turkey, Gundogan has plumped for the *Nationalmannschaft* – and given his call-up for Germany's friendly with Brazil in August, the decision looks to be the right one.

Like Manuel Neuer and Mesut Ozil, he is a native of the Ruhr town of Gelsenkirchen, which is the home patch of Dortmund's arch local-rivals Schalke. As a schoolboy he had a short spell at the Schalke academy before joining the junior set-up at Bochum, where he made his professional breakthrough.

Dynamic, technical and intelligent, he is a fine passer of the ball.

3 Bernd LENO

BAYER LEVERKUSEN (ON LOAN FROM STUTTGART)

AGE
19 (04.03.92)
POSITION
Goalkeeper

Three months ago Leno was busy preparing for another campaign in the third division with Stuttgart's reserves – until Leverkusen were plunged into a goalkeeping crisis.

With first-choice Rene Adler out until October with a knee injury and American back-up David Yelldell badly at fault during a German Cup loss to Dynamo Dresden, the Rhinelanders promptly completed a six-month loan deal for the teenager.

Described by one Berlin newspaper as a "lucky charm" in the wake of his team's goalless draw with champions Dortmund, Leno was unbeaten in his first three games in the German top flight – the first time a keeper had begun his Bundesliga career with a hat-trick of clean sheets since Duisburg's Heribert Macherey in 1981.

"The guy who worries already has lost," says the supremely confident Germany Under-20 international. Concisely put and very appropriate for one whose main asset is his composure.

4 Teemu PUKKI (Fin)

SCHALKE

AGE
21 (29.03.90)
POSITION
Forward

There was no need for Schalke to go on repeated Scandinavian scouting missions before they paid HJK Helsinki £1.3million on deadline day in the summer 2011 transfer window as they had already seen enough of Pukki when he scored all three of HJK's goals in a Europa League qualifier against the Gelsenkirchen club in August, which Schalke won 6-3 on aggregate.

Able to operate as a central striker or on either flank, the Finland international may face a tough task in leaping ahead of Raul, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Jefferson Farfan in *Die Konigsblauen*'s pecking order, but one commodity he is certainly not short of is self-confidence, pointing out in his signing-on press conference that he had not come to the Bundesliga to sit on the bench.

5 ROBERTO FIRMINO (Bra)

HOFFENHEIM

AGE
20 (02.10.91)
POSITION
Midfielder

In recent years Hoffenheim have excelled at talent-spotting in Brazil, the most notable examples being midfielders Carlos Eduardo, now at Rubin Kazan, and Luiz Gustavo, who is with Bayern Munich. Now they look to have struck gold with this skilful playmaker or striker from the Atlantic coastal town of Maceio.

Roberto Firmino Barbosa de Oliveira had a great first season at Figueirense, where he was voted the best player in Brazil's second division. A £3.5million move to Hoffenheim followed in January 2010 and it says much about his character and desire to succeed in Europe that he required relatively little time to adjust to the more robust and quicker German game.

This season he has gone from strength to strength, offering technical wizardry, vision and bright ideas.

6 Robert-Ron ZIELER

HANOVER

AGE
22 (12.02.89)
POSITION
Goalkeeper

Just like Spain and Barcelona centre-back Gerard Pique, this Cologne-born keeper played in Manchester United's youth and reserve teams before failing to secure a regular first-team place and eventually opting to return home for a final, decisive career push.

On joining Hanover in August last year he was the club's third-choice, but by January he had clambered to top spot, and such was the impact he made in the second half of the season that respected German sports magazine *Kicker* voted him the fourth-best keeper in the country – not bad for someone with a mere 15 top-flight games under his belt.

A transfer target for Schalke this summer, he preferred to sign a new four-year deal with Hanover. He earned his first Germany call-up in August and still stays in touch with his former United goalkeeping mentor, Edwin Van der Sar.

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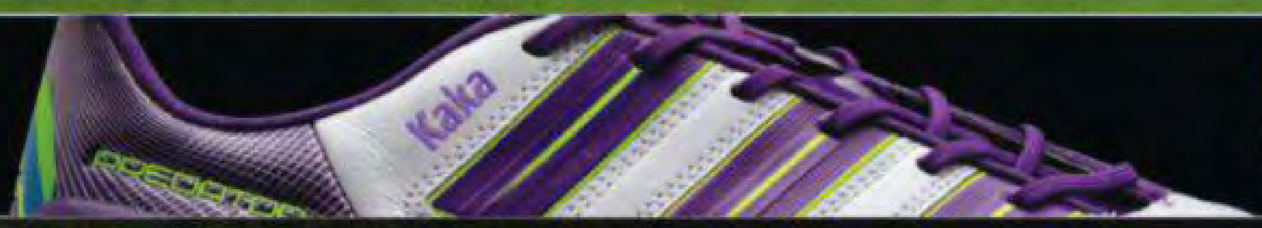

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World Service

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Winner takes all...Niki Zimling of Denmark (left) and Portugal's Joao Moutinho clash in their Euro 2012 qualifying-group showdown

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Qualified...Tunisia coach Sami Trabelsi (centre)

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Seeing red...Al Hooti

ARGENTINA

New skipper scores

Lionel Messi scored his first goal for the national side in over 30 months as Argentina beat Chile 4-1 in their opening World Cup qualifier.

Commenting on the seeming inability of the country's new captain to reproduce his scintillating club form with Barcelona for the national side, coach Alejandro Sabella said: "This goal will be important for Lionel to lay to rest this apparent collective psychosis that he can't do the business with Argentina."

Real Madrid's Gonzalo Higuain also impressed, scoring a hat-trick.

AUSTRIA

Return to winning ways

Interim coach Willi Ruttensteiner recalled Andreas Ivanschitz to the national side, after an absence of two-and-a-half years, and was rewarded with a goal from the Mainz playmaker as Austria won 4-1 in Azerbaijan.

The victory was the team's first away from home since October 2006 and they followed it up with a 0-0 draw in Kazakhstan to complete their Euro 2012 qualifying campaign.

43 seconds it took for Bahrain defender Rashed Al Hooti to get himself sent off against Iran

Internationals

2014 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

ASIA SECTION

● 4.5 finals places available

3rd round

Group A

Oct 11 - Shenzhen
China 0
Iraq 1 (Mahmoud 45)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Mozaffari (Irn)
China: Yang Zhi - Wu Xi, Du Wei, Li Weifeng, Sun Xiang, Zheng Zhi, Huang Bowen, Yu Hanchao (Zhang Chengdong 63), Chen Tao (Wu Pingfeng 63), Feng Renliang (Yu Hai 83), Gao Lin.
Iraq: Kassid - Samal Saeed, Rehema, Shaker, Abbas, Muneer, Khalid, Abdul Zahra (Samer Saeed 90), Akram, Kareem (Kadhim 69), Mahmoud (Mohamed 90). *Sent off: Abbas 65min.*

Oct 11 - Singapore
Singapore 0
Jordan 3 (Deeb 11, Bani Yaseen 54, Ibrahim 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,799. **Ref:** Choi (SKo)

WC QUALS: ASIA – 3RD ROUND – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jordan	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Iraq	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
China	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Singapore	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Iraq v China
Jordan v Singapore
15.11.11 Jordan v Iraq
Singapore v China
29.02.12 China v Jordan
Iraq v Singapore

Group B

Oct 11 - Beirut
Lebanon 2 (Maatouk 15, pen 86)
Kuwait 2 (Neda 50, Younes og 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Toma (Jap)

Oct 11 - Suwon
South Korea 2 (Park Chu-young 50, Al Kamali og 63)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Matar 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,689. **Ref:** Tan (Chn)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Choi Hyo-jin, Kim Young-kwon, Hong Jeong-ho, Lee Yong-rae, Seo Jung-jin, Ji Dong-won (Son Heung-min 73), Park Chu-young (Lee Dong-gook 80), Koo Ja-cheol (Nam Tae-hee 64), Lee Jung-soo, Ki Sung-yueng.

WC QUALS: ASIA – 3RD ROUND – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	3	2	1	0	9	2	7
Kuwait	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Lebanon	3	1	1	1	5	9	4
UAE	3	0	0	3	4	8	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Kuwait v Lebanon
UAE v South Korea
15.11.11 Kuwait v UAE
Lebanon v South Korea
29.02.12 South Korea v Kuwait
UAE v Lebanon

Group C

Oct 11 - Osaka
Japan 8 (Havenaar 11, 47, Okazaki 19, 74, Komano 35, Kagawa 41, 68, K Nakamura 56)
Tajikistan 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 44,688. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)
Japan: Kawashima - Komano, Konno, Yoshida, Nagatomo, Endo, Hasebe (Hosogai 62), K Nakamura, Okazaki (Fujimoto 77), Kagawa, Havenaar (Lee 49).

Oct 11 - Pyongyang
North Korea 0
Uzbekistan 1 (Geynrikh 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)
Uzbekistan: Nesterov - Khasanov (Galiulin 32), Haydarov, Djeparov, Ahmedov, Geynrikh (Bikmaev 64), Tursunov, Kapadze, Denisov, Tuhtahujaev, Karpenko (Mulladjanov 55).

WC QUALS: ASIA – 3RD ROUND – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	3	2	1	0	10	1	7
Uzbekistan	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
North Korea	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Tajikistan*	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

**Tajikistan replaced Syria, who had beaten the Tajiks in the previous round but were subsequently expelled from the competition for fielding an ineligible player in both legs of that tie*

Remaining games
11.11.11 Tajikistan v Japan
Uzbekistan v North Korea
15.11.11 North Korea v Japan
Uzbekistan v Tajikistan
29.02.12 Japan v Uzbekistan
Tajikistan v North Korea

Group D

Oct 11 - Sydney
Australia 3 (Holman 8, Kennedy 65, Jedinak 85)
Oman 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,372. **Ref:** Kovalenko (Uzb)
Australia: Federici - Zullo (Brosque 87), Neill, Spiranovic, Williams (Kruse 72), Jedinak, Valeri, McKay, Wilkshire, Holman, Kennedy (Kilkenny 90+1).

Oct 11 - Bangkok
Thailand 0
Saudi Arabia 0
Att: 42,000. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)

WC QUALS: ASIA – 3RD ROUND – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Thailand	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Oman	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

Remaining games
11.11.11 Oman v Australia
Saudi Arabia v Thailand
15.11.11 Saudi Arabia v Oman
Thailand v Australia
29.02.12 Australia v Saudi Arabia
Oman v Thailand

Group E

Oct 11 - Jakarta
Indonesia 2 (Gonzales 26, 35)
Qatar 3 (Al Sulaiti 14, Ibrahim 32, Razak 59)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Bashir (Sin)

Oct 11 - Tehran
Iran 6 (J Hosseini 22, Jabbari 34, Aghili 42, Teymourian 62, Ansarifard 75, Rezaei 83)
Bahrain 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 83,000. **Ref:** Green (Aus)
Sent off: Al Hooti (Bahrain) 1min
Iran: Rahmati - Pooladi, J Hosseini, Aghili, Teymourian, Jabbari (Ansarifard 66), K Heydari, Nekounam, Najafabadi (Rezaei 73), Meydavoudi (Mahini 46), Khalatbary.

WC QUALS: ASIA – 3RD ROUND – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	2	1	0	10	1	7
Qatar	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Bahrain	3	1	1	1	2	6	4
Indonesia	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Bahrain v Iran
Qatar v Indonesia
15.11.11 Indonesia v Iran
Qatar v Bahrain
29.02.12 Bahrain v Indonesia
Iran v Qatar

Top 2 in each group qualify for 4th round

CONCACAF SECTION

● 3.5 finals places available

2nd round

Group A

Oct 7 - Georgetown
Cayman Islands 0
Surinam 1 (Drenthe 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,100. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
Sent off: Pitta (Cayman Islands) 87min

Oct 7 - San Cristobal
Dominican Republic 1 (Ozuna 54)
El Salvador 2 (Romero pen 38, Blanco 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,323. **Ref:** Cerdas (CR)
Sent off: Jimenez (Dominican Republic) 34min

Oct 11 - San Salvador
El Salvador 4 (Turcios 6, Purdy 13, J Alas 45, Sosa pen 88)
Cayman Islands 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 17,570. **Ref:** Cruz (CR)

Oct 11 - Paramaribo
Surinam 1 (Kwasie 80)
Dominican Republic 3 (Fana 9, Ozuna 47, 75)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ward (Can)

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Salvador	4	4	0	0	13	4	12
Surinam	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Dominican Rep	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Cayman Is	4	0	0	4	1	10	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Dominican Rep v Cayman Is
Surinam v El Salvador
15.11.11 Cayman Is v Dominican Rep
El Salvador v Surinam

Group B

Oct 7 - Bridgetown
Barbados 0
Guyana 2 (Abrams 73, Nurse 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Georges (Hai)

Oct 7 - Hamilton
Bermuda 2 (Russell 53, Wells 63)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Molino 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,243. **Ref:** Solis (CR)
Sent off: Bell (Bermuda) 30min (from the bench)

Oct 11 - Hamilton
Bermuda 1 (Nusum 71)
Guyana 1 (Shakes 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,573. **Ref:** Angela (Aru)

Oct 11 - Port of Spain
Trinidad & Tobago 4 (Peltier 7, 54, 62, Hector 90)
Barbados 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Bogle (Jam)

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guyana	4	3	1	0	7	2	10
Trinidad & Tob	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Bermuda	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Barbados	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Bermuda v Barbados
Guyana v Trinidad & Tobago
15.11.11 Barbados v Bermuda
Trinidad & Tobago v Guyana

Group C

Oct 7 - Roseau
Dominica 0
Panama 5 (Waithe 26, 88, Tejada 34, Perez 55, Buitrago 62)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Wijngaarde (Sur)
Panama: Penedo - Dasent, Baloy, Miller, Davis, Gomez (Godoy 71), Bonaga, Waithe, Buitrago, Tejada (Perez 54), Ruiz (Quintero 63).

Oct 11 - Panama City
Panama 5 (Tejada 29, 64, Perez 49, 52, 87)
Nicaragua 1 (Reyes 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,846. **Ref:** Ventura (ESv)
Panama: Penedo - Baloy, Torres, Gomez, Machado, L Henriquez, Quintero (Waithe 69), Barahona (Buitrago 76), Cooper, Perez, Tejada (Renteria 82).

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panama (Q)	3	3	0	0	12	2	9
Nicaragua	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Dominica	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Bahamas withdrew before group games started

Remaining games
11.11.11 Nicaragua v Dominica
15.11.11 Panama v Dominica

Group D

Oct 7 - Bayamon
Puerto Rico 1 (Cabrero 34)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (Lake 58)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

Oct 7 - Gros Islet
St Lucia 0
Canada 7 (Jackson 19, 27, 39, Occean 35, 52, Hume 73, 86)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 1,005. **Ref:** Vidal (Pan)

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First international goal...Hazard

BELGIUM

Hazard finally on target

After 22 games without scoring, Eden Hazard finally broke his international duck with a goal in Belgium's 4-1 victory over Kazakhstan.

"I was never concerned about scoring," said the Lille striker. "I am not the kind of player to get annoyed with those things. I knew I would end up scoring a goal for Belgium and that it would come sooner or later."

BRAZIL

Rolling back the years

Ronaldinho scored his first international goal since October 2007 as 10-man Brazil came from a goal down to beat Mexico 2-1 in a friendly.

Having gone behind to a David Luiz own goal, the visitors then lost Dani Alves to a second yellow card for a foul on Javier Hernandez in the penalty area, but keeper Jefferson saved Andres Guardado's spot-kick. Brazil rallied in the second half to inflict a first defeat on Mexico boss Jose Manuel De la Torre.

Manchester United defender Fabio made his debut for Brazil in their 1-0 win against Costa Rica.

Back in business...Ronaldinho

Canada: Stamatopoulos - Ledgerwood, Edgar, Straith, Jazic, De Guzman, Hume, Johnson (Dunfield 17), Jackson (Morgan 71), De Rosario (Simpson 54), Occean.

Oct 11 - Toronto
Canada 0
Puerto Rico 0
Att: 12,178. **Ref:** Lancaster (Guy)
Canada: Hirschfeld - Ledgerwood, Edgar, Straith, Jazic, De Guzman, Hume (Occean 34), Dunfield, Jackson (Ricketts 70), Simpson, De Rosario.

Oct 11 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (Lake 83)
St Lucia 1 (C Valcin 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Skeete (Bds)

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	4	3	1	0	14	1	10
St Kitts & N'vis	4	1	3	0	6	4	6
Puerto Rico	4	0	3	1	1	4	3
St Lucia	4	0	1	3	4	16	1

Remaining games
11.11.11 St Kitts & Nevis v Canada
St Lucia v Puerto Rico
15.11.11 Canada v St Kitts & Nevis
Puerto Rico v St Lucia

Group E

Sep 18 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 2 (M Samuel 22, Stewart 72)
Grenada 1 (Langaigne 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Ward (Can)

Oct 7 - Belmopan
Belize 1 (Simpson 90)
Grenada 4 (S Rennie 37, Julien 41, K Joseph 50, Murray 80)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,200. **Ref:** Jarquin (Nca)

Oct 7 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
Guatemala 3 (M Rodriguez 44, 57, Pezzarossi 75)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Brea (Cub)

Oct 11 - Guatemala City
Guatemala 3 (Gallardo pen 8, M Lopez 65, Ruiz pen 78)
Belize 1 (McCauley 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 21,107. **Ref:** Penaloza (Mex)
Sent off: E Trapp (Belize) 76min

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Grenada	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Belize	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
St Vincent & G	3	1	0	2	2	8	3

Remaining games
15.10.11 Grenada v St Vincent & G
11.11.11 Belize v St Vincent & G
Guatemala v Grenada
15.11.11 Grenada v Guatemala
St Vincent & G v Belize

Group F

Oct 7 - Willemstad
Curacao 0
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (T Thomas 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,563. **Ref:** Reyna (Gtm)

Oct 7 - Frederiksted
US Virgin Islands 0
Haiti 7 (Maurice 5, 65, pen 82, Jaggy 11, Belfort Fils 57, pen 73, Goreux 64)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 406. **Ref:** Holder (Cay)

Oct 11 - St John's
Antigua & Barbuda 10 (T Thomas 6, 41, 78, Byers 23, 30, 39, Burton 54, 66, J Thomas 85, Murtagh 90+2)
US Virgin Islands 0
HT: 5-0. **Ref:** Matthew (SKN)

Oct 11 - Port-au-Prince
Haiti 2 (Maurice pen 25, Belfort Fils 60)
Curacao 2 (Siberie 7, Bito 14)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 7,800. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)

WC QUALS: CONCACAF – 2ND ROUND – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Antigua & B	4	4	0	0	24	3	12
Haiti	4	3	1	0	19	4	10
Curacao	4	0	1	3	6	12	1
US Virgin Is	4	0	0	4	1	31	0

Remaining games
11.11.11 Antigua & Barbuda v Haiti
US Virgin Islands v Curacao
15.11.11 Curacao v US Virgin Islands
Haiti v Antigua & Barbuda

Group winners qualify for the 3rd round, to which Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States received byes

SOUTH AMERICA SECTION

● 5.5 finals places available, one of which goes automatically to hosts Brazil

Oct 7 - Buenos Aires
Argentina 4 (Higuain 7, 52, 63, Messi 26)
Chile 1 (Fernandez 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,161. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Argentina: Andujar - Zabaleta, N Burdisso, Otamendi, Rojo, Sosa (Salvio 80), Banega (Rinaudo 71), Brana, Di Maria (Gutierrez 85), Messi, Higuain.
Chile: Bravo - Jara, Ponce, Vidal, Isla, Carmona, Beausejour (M Gonzalez 54), Fernandez (Jorquera 81), Valdivia, Pinilla (Vargas 54), Suazo.

Oct 7 - Quito
Ecuador 2 (J Ayovi 15, Benitez 28)
Venezuela 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,278. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)
Ecuador: Banguera - Paredes, Erazo, Campos, W Ayovi, Noboa (Arroyo 77), Saritama, Valencia, Suarez (Bolanos 66), Benitez (Mendez 80), J Ayovi.
Venezuela: Vega - Velazquez, Lucena, Rey, Granados, Di Giorgi, Seijas, F Flores (A Flores 57), Meza, Maldonado (Feltscher 71), Aristeguieta (Moreno 46). *Sent off: Rey 78min.*

Oct 7 - Lima
Peru 2 (Guerrero 47, 73)
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,600. **Ref:** Pezzotta (Arg)
Peru: R Fernandez - Guizasola, Acasiete, Rodriguez, Yotun, Balbin, Cruzado (Lobaton 89), Farfan, Vargas, Guerrero (Advincula 90), Pizarro.
Paraguay: D Barreto - Piris, Da Silva, Veron, Marecos (Samudio 25), Perez (O Cardozo 65), E Barreto, C Riveros, Estigarribia, Ramirez (Pittoni 54), Santa Cruz.

Oct 7 - Montevideo
Uruguay 4 (Suarez 3, Lugano 26, 72, Cavani 35)
Bolivia 2 (Cardozo 18, Martins pen 86)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 25,500. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Uruguay: Muslera - Lugano, Godin, Caceres, M Pereira, Arevalo, Perez, A Pereira (Fucile 56), Cavani (C Rodriguez 70), Forlan, Suarez.
Bolivia: Arias - Vargas, Raldes, Ronald Rivero, L Gutierrez, Flores (Chavez 82), Robles, Saucedo (Pena 46), Rojas (J Vaca 59), Cardozo, Martins.

Oct 11 - La Paz
Bolivia 1 (Flores 85)
Colombia 2 (Pabon 47, Falcao 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,155. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Bolivia: D Vaca - Alvarez (Chavez 75), Raldes, Ronald Rivero, L Gutierrez (Campos 66), Robles, Flores, Cardozo, Escobar, Arce, Martins (Andaveris 71).
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, L Perea, A Mosquera, Armero, Pabon (D Moreno 61), Guarin (Chara 66), Sanchez, Aguilar, Rodriguez, Gutierrez (Falcao 78).

Oct 11 - Santiago
Chile 4 (Ponce 2, Vargas 17, Medel 47, Suazo pen 63)
Peru 2 (Pizarro 49, Farfan 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 39,000. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)
Chile: Bravo - Ponce, Jara, M Gonzalez, Isla, Medel, Vidal, Beausejour, Valdivia (Carmona 90), Vargas (Fernandez 84), Suazo (Paredes 72).
Peru: R Fernandez - Revoredo, Rodriguez, Acasiete (Chiroque 87), Yotun (Guizasola 46), Farfan, Balbin (Lobaton 46), Cruzado, Vargas, Guerrero, Pizarro.

Oct 11 - Asuncion
Paraguay 1 (R Ortiz 90+2)
Uruguay 1 (Forlan 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,922. **Ref:** Seneme (Bra)
Paraguay: D Barreto - Bonet (Perez 80), Da Silva, Veron, R Ortiz, E Barreto, V Caceres (Santa Cruz 77), C Riveros, Estigarribia, Haedo Valdez, O Cardozo (Caballero 67).
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Lugano, Godin, Caceres, Cavani, Perez (Eguren 58), Arevalo, A Pereira (A Gonzalez 65), Forlan (C Rodriguez 83), Suarez.

Oct 11 - Puerto La Cruz
Venezuela 1 (Amorebieta 61)
Argentina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Silvera (Uru)
Venezuela: Vega - Rosales, Amorebieta, Vizcarrondo, Cichero, Lucena, Rincon, C Gonzalez (Alvarez 82), Arango, Fedor (Moreno 89), S Rondon (Feltscher 76).
Argentina: Andujar - Zabaleta (Banega 66), N Burdisso, Demichelis, Otamendi, Rojo, Sosa (Palacio 75), Mascherano, Di Maria (Pastore 84), Messi, Higuain.

WC QUALS: SOUTH AMERICA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Argentina	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Colombia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Peru	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Chile	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
Venezuela	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	3	6	0

Each team will play 16 games (8x2)

Next 2 rounds of games
11.11.11 Argentina v Bolivia
Colombia v Venezuela
Paraguay v Ecuador
Uruguay v Chile
15.11.11 Chile v Paraguay
Colombia v Argentina
Ecuador v Peru
Venezuela v Bolivia

Top 4 qualify for the finals; 5th-placed team will meet the 5th-best Asian team in a play-off for a place in the finals

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for next round

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Oct 7 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Nadirov 74)
Austria 4 (Ivanschitz 34, Janko 52, 62, Junuzovic 90+1)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Studer (Swi)
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Yunisoglu, Allahverdiyev, R A Sadygov (Amirguliyev 46), Javadov (Nadirov 57), Aliyev, Huseynov, R F Sadygov, Abisov, Budak, Ismayilov. *Sent off: Yunisoglu 27min.*
Austria: Grunwald - Dag, Prodl, Dragovic, Fuchs, Scharner, Baumgartlinger, Alaba, Arnautovic (Junuzovic 67), Ivanschitz (Royer 73), Janko (Hosiner 88).

Oct 7 - Brussels
Belgium 4 (Simons pen 40, Hazard 43, Kompany 49, Ogunjimi 84)
Kazakhstan 1 (Nurdauletov pen 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
Belgium: Mignolet - Ciman, Van Buyten, Kompany, Vertonghen, Simons (Defour 75), Mertens, Witsel, Hazard (Odjidja 63), De Camargo (Ogunjimi 73), Dembele.
Kazakhstan: Loginovsky - Kirov, Mukhtarov, Kukeyev (Nurdauletov 61), Karpovich (Shakhmetov 75), Muzhikov, Tazhimbetov (Ostapenko 57), Kurgulin, Khiznichenko, Rozhkov, Yevstigneev. *Sent off: Kurgulin 59min.*

Oct 7 - Istanbul
Turkey 1 (Hakan Balta 79)
Germany 3 (Gomez 35, Muller 66, Schweinsteiger pen 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Turkey: Volkan Demirel - Gokhan Gonul, Egemen, Servet, Hakan Balta, Sabri, Hamit Altintop, Mehmet Aurelio (Umut 87), Selcuk Inan (Gokhan Tore 46), Arda (Kazim-Richards 69), Burak.
Germany: Neuer - Boateng (Howedes 74), Mertesacker, Badstuber, Lahm, Muller, Khedira, Schweinsteiger, Gotze (Reus 90), Gomez, Podolski (Schurrle 62).

Oct 11 - Dusseldorf
Germany 3 (Ozil 30, Schurrle 33, Gomez 48)
Belgium 1 (Fellaini 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 48,483. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Germany: Neuer - Howedes, Hummels, Mertesacker, Lahm (Gundogan 84), Khedira, Muller (Reus 71), Ozil, Kroos, Schurrle, Gomez (Cacau 77).
Belgium: Mignolet - Ciman, Kompany, Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Simons, Dembele (Mertens 64), Fellaini, Witsel, Hazard, Ogunjimi (Lukaku 46).

World Cup triple...Jackson

CANADA

Hat-trick hero

Three goals from Norwich City's Simeon Jackson helped Canada to their biggest-ever competitive victory as they won 7-0 away to St Lucia in their World Cup qualifying group. There were also two goals each for Oliver Ocean and Iain Hume.

Jackson's hat-trick was only the second scored by a Canada player in the competition. The only previous occasion it had been done was by Alex Bunbury, the father of current USA international Teal Bunbury, in 1992.

ENGLAND

Jones makes debut

Manchester United defender Phil Jones made his debut in the 2-2 draw with Montenegro, while

45 shots Japan had on goal in their 8-0 win over Tajikistan without a single effort in return

Earning his first cap...Jones

Oct 11 - Astana
Kazakhstan 0
Austria 0
Att: 22,000. **Ref:** Kaasik (Est)
Kazakhstan: Sidelnikov - Kirov, Mukhtarov, Gurman (Yevstigneev 77), Nurdauletov, Schmidtgal, Khairullin, Nurgaliyev (Muzhikov 46), Gridin, Ostapenko, Rozhkov.
Austria: Grunwald - Dag, Prodl, Dragovic, Fuchs, Alaba, Scharner, Kulovits (Kavlak 75), Ivanschitz (Junuzovic 68), Arnautovic (Maierhofer 85), Janko.

Oct 11 - Istanbul
Turkey 1 (Burak 60)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Rasmussen (Den)
Turkey: Sinan - Sabri, Gokhan Zan, Egemen, Hakan Balta, Kazim-Richards (Selcuk Inan 58), Mehmet Topal, Emre Belozoglu (Gokhan Tore 78), Hamit Altintop, Arda, Burak (Umut 88).
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Shukurov, Levin, R F Sadygov, Budak (Amirguliyev 90+3), Ismayilov (E Mammadov 46; Isayev 86), Huseynov, Abisov, Nadirov, Chertoganov, Subasic.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany (Q)	10	10	0	0	34	7	30
Turkey (P)	10	5	2	3	13	11	17
Belgium	10	4	3	3	21	15	15
Austria	10	3	3	4	16	17	12
Azerbaijan	10	2	1	7	10	26	7
Kazakhstan	10	1	1	8	6	24	4

Group B

Oct 7 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Republic of Ireland 2 (Doyle 8, McGeady 20)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Kovarik (Cze)
Andorra: Gomes - A Martinez (Lorenzo 78), E Garcia, I Lima (Sonejee 80), Bernaus, Pujol (Peppe 60), C Martinez, Ayala, Vieira, Moreno, Silva.
Rep Ireland: Given - O'Shea, St Ledger, O'Dea, Ward, McGeady, Andrews, Whelan (Fahey 65), Duff (S Hunt 75), Keane, Doyle (Long 72).

Oct 7 - Yerevan
Armenia 4 (Pizzelli 28, Henrikh Mkhitaryan 34, G Ghazaryan 69, Sarkisov 90+1)
Macedonia 1 (Sikov 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Yuspashyan, Hovsepyan, K Mkrtchyan (Sarkisov 75), Artur Edigaryan, Pizzelli (Manucharyan 63), G Ghazaryan (Malakyan 83), Movsisyan, V Aleksanyan, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Hayrapetyan.
Macedonia: Bogatinov - Georgievski (Lazarevski 51), Sikov, Noveski, G Popov, Sumulikoski, Demiri, Muarem (Gjurovski 46), Trickovski, M Ivanovski, F Ivanovski (I Mitreski 60). *Sent off: Sumulikoski 53min.*

Oct 7 - Zilina
Slovakia 0
Russia 1 (Dzagoev 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,087. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Slovakia: Mucha - Pekarik, Skrtel, Durica, Hubocan, Karhan (Sebo 85), Stoch, Kucka (Guede 73), Hamsik, Jendrisek, Holosko (Weiss 73).
Russia: Malafeev - Anyukov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Zhirkov (A Berezutsky 90+4), Denisov, Dzagoev (Samedov 90+2), Zyryanov, Shirokov, Arshavin, Pavlyuchenko (Pogrebnyak 87).

Oct 11 - Skopje
Macedonia 1 (Noveski 79)
Slovakia 1 (Piroska 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Chapron (Fra)
Macedonia: Bogatinov - Mojsov, Sikov, Noveski, Lazarevski, Demiri, Gjurovski, Lazevski (F Ivanovski 64), Grozdanoski (Petrov 46), Trickovski, Fazli (Trajkovski 84).
Slovakia: Mucha - Pekarik, Weiss, Jez (Grajciar 88), Piroska (Holosko 87), Michalik, Hubocan (Cech 46), Salata, Hamsik, Jendrisek, Kucka.

Oct 11 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 2 (V Aleksanyan og 43, Dunne 59)
Armenia 1 (Henrikh Mkhitaryan 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,200. **Ref:** Iturralde González (Spa)
Rep Ireland: Given - O'Shea, Dunne, St Ledger, Kelly, McGeady (S Hunt 68), Whelan (Fahey 76), Andrews, Duff, Doyle, Cox (Walters 80). *Sent off: Doyle 81min.*
Armenia: Berezovsky - Hovsepyan, K Mkrtchyan, Pizzelli (Manucharyan 53), Malakyan (Arsen Petrosyan 28), G Ghazaryan (Sarkisov 64), Movsisyan, Mkoyan, V Aleksanyan, Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Hayrapetyan. *Sent off: Berezovsky 26min.*

Oct 11 - Moscow
Russia 6 (Dzagoev 5, 44, Ignashevich 26, Pavlyuchenko 30, Glushakov 59, Bilyaletdinov 78)
Andorra 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Hacmon (Isr)
Russia: Malafeev - Shishkin, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Semshov (Bilyaletdinov 72), Denisov, Glushakov (Samedov 80), Dzagoev, Pavlyuchenko (Pogrebnyak 73), Arshavin.
Andorra: Gomes - A Martinez, E Garcia, I Lima, Bernaus, Pujol (J Sanchez 85), Vieira, Moreno, Vales, Peppe (Lorenzo 79), Gomez (Silva 70).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia (Q)	10	7	2	1	17	4	23
Rep Ireland (P)	10	6	3	1	15	7	21
Armenia	10	5	2	3	22	10	17
Slovakia	10	4	3	3	7	10	15
Macedonia	10	2	2	6	8	14	8
Andorra	10	0	0	10	1	25	0

Group C

Oct 7 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 1 (Davis 22)
Estonia 2 (Vassiljev pen 77, 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,768. **Ref:** Grafe (Ger)
Northern Ireland: Camp - Hodson, Cathcart, McAuley, Baird, McCourt, Clingan (C Evans 32), Davis, McCann (Healy 83), Brunt, Lafferty (Feeney 69).
Estonia: Pareiko - Piiroja, Klavan, Enar Jaager, Stepanov, Kruglov, Dmitrijev, S Puri (Purje 57), Vunk, Kink (Vassiljev 65), Ahjupera (Zenjov 46).

Oct 7 - Belgrade
Serbia 1 (Ivanovic 26)
Italy 1 (Marchisio 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Serbia: Jorgacevic - Ivanovic, Kolarov, Rajkovic, Subotic, D Stankovic (Jovanovic 87), Fejsa (Petrovic 46), Z Tosic, Ninkovic, Krasic (Zigic 76), Pantelic.
Italy: Buffon - Barzagli, Maggio, Chiellini, Bonucci, Marchisio (Nocerino 70), Pirlo, De Rossi, Montolivo (Aquilani 81), Cassano (Giovinco 66), Rossi.

Oct 11 - Pescara
Italy 3 (Cassano 21, 53, McAuley og 74)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,480. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Italy: Buffon (De Sanctis 76) - Cassani, Barzagli, Chiellini, Balzaretti, De Rossi, Pirlo, Montolivo, Aquilani (Nocerino 68), Cassano (Osvaldo 56), Giovinco.
Northern Ireland: Taylor - Hodson, Baird, McAuley, McGivern, C Evans, Little, Davis, Norwood (McLaughlin 73), Gorman (McGinn 77), Healy (Feeney 65).

Oct 11 - Maribor
Slovenia 1 (Vrsic 45+1)
Serbia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko (Ilic 65), Cesar, Suler, Jokic, Bacinovic (Krhin 69), Vrsic (Birsa 76), Radosavljevic, Kirm, Ljubijankic, Matavz.
Serbia: Jorgacevic - Ivanovic, Subotic, Vidic, Kolarov, Ninkovic (Milijas 72), D Stankovic, Petrovic (Pantelic 51), Z Tosic, Mrdja, Jovanovic (Krasic 57).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy (Q)	10	8	2	0	20	2	26
Estonia (P)	10	5	1	4	15	14	16
Serbia	10	4	3	3	13	12	15
Slovenia	10	4	2	4	11	7	14
N Ireland	10	2	3	5	9	13	9
Faroe Islands	10	1	1	8	6	26	4

Group D

Oct 7 - Zenica
Bosnia-Herzegovina 5 (Dzeko 12, Misimovic 15, pen 22, Pjanic 36, Medunjanin 51)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Evans (Wal)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Papac, Spahic, Rahimic (Zahirovic 59), Mujdza, Lulic (Maletic 66), Medunjanin (Ibricic 64), Pjanic, Ibisevic, Misimovic, Dzeko.
Luxembourg: Joubert - Blaise, Schnell, C Leweck, Bukvic, Bettmer, Mutsch, Gerson, Laterza (Janisch 83), Da Mota (Joachim 44), Payal.

Oct 7 - Paris
France 3 (Malouda 11, Remy 38, Revellere 67)
Albania 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 67,000. **Ref:** Koukoulakis (Gre)
France: Lloris - Rami, Debuchy, Kaboul, Evra (Revellere 46), M'Vila, Cabaye (Martin 48), Nasri, Malouda, Remy, Gomis (Cisse 80).
Albania: Ujkani - Dallku, Lila, Vangjeli, Lika (Lilaj 81), Roshi, Muzaka (Januzi 74), Cana, Duro, Hyka (Bakaj 63), Salihi.

Oct 7 - Bucharest
Romania 2 (Mutu 19, pen 51)
Belarus 2 (Kornilenko 45, Dragun 82)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 29,486. **Ref:** Kelly (Rir)
Romania: Pantilimon - Matel, Tamas, Moti, Rat, Lazar (Cocis 70), Bourceanu, Sanmartean (Cristea 28), Torje, Marica (Stancu 80), Mutu.
Belarus: Zhevnov - Omelyanchuk, Filipenko (Plaskonny 19), Verkhovtsov, Bordachev (Veretilo 90+2), Kulchy, Dragun, Krivets (Rudik 60), Kislyak, Nekhaychik, Kornilenko.

Oct 11 - Tirana
Albania 1 (Salihi 24)
Romania 1 (Luchin 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
Albania: Ujkani - Lila, Dallku, Cana, Roshi (Muzaka 77), Lilaj, Lala, Teli, Salihi, Bakaj (Hyka 67), Bogdani (Januzi 46).
Romania: Lung - Tamas, Bourceanu, Lazar (Bucur 87), Marica (Stancu 49), Latovlevici, Goian, Nicolita (Torje 63), Luchin, Cocis, Mutu.

Oct 11 - Paris
France 1 (Nasri pen 78)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Dzeko 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 78,457. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
France: Lloris - Reveillere, Rami, Abidal, Evra, Cabaye (Gameiro 61), M'Vila, Nasri, Malouda (Martin 61), Menez, Remy (A Diarra 81).
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Hasagic (Begovic 46) - Mujdza (Maletic 61), Pandza, Spahic, Papac, Rahimic, Medunjanin (Zahirovic 71), Pjanic, Lulic, Misimovic, Dzeko.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France (Q)	10	6	3	1	15	4	21
Bosnia-Hrz (P)	10	6	2	2	17	8	20
Romania	10	3	5	2	13	9	14
Belarus	10	3	4	3	8	7	13
Albania	10	2	3	5	7	14	9
Luxembourg	10	1	1	8	3	21	4

Group E

Oct 7 - Helsinki
Finland 1 (Toivio 73)
Sweden 2 (S Larsson 8, M Olsson 52)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,257. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Finland: Hradecky - Moisander, Toivio, Vayrynen (Furuholm 70), R Eremenko, Pukki (Forssell 60), Arkivuo, Sparv, Ring, Hamalainen, Raitala.
Sweden: Isaksson - Lustig, Mellberg, Majstorovic, M Olsson, S Larsson (Toivonen 68), Kallstrom (Bajrami 87), R Elm, Wilhelmsson (A Svensson 54), Elmander, Ibrahimovic.

Oct 7 - Rotterdam
Holland 1 (Huntelaar 40)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Holland: Vorm - Van der Wiel, Bruma, Mathijsen, Pieters, Van Persie, Strootman, Van Bommel, Van der Vaart (Elia 78), Kuyt, Huntelaar.
Moldova: Stanislav Namasco - Racu, Armas, Bulgaru, Golovatenco, Cheptine (Ovseannicov 84), Cebotaru, Epureanu, S Ivanov, Suvurov (Zmeu 58), Alexeev (Bugaiov 70).

Oct 11 - Budapest
Hungary 0
Finland 0
Att: 34,981. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Hungary: Kiraly - Varga, Korcsmar, Juhasz, Vanczak, Koman, Elek, Sandor (Vadocz 59), Hajnal (Stieber 87), Szabics, Priskin (Dzsudzsak 59).
Finland: Fredrikson - Moisander, Toivio, Vayrynen, Sparv, Ring, Raitala, Hamalainen (Pukki 84), R Eremenko, Arkivuo (Lampi 56), Forssell (Furuholm 67).

Oct 11 - Chisinau
Moldova 4 (Zmeu 30, S Bacciocchi og 62, Suvorov 66, Andronic 87)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Reinert (Far)
Moldova: Gaiduchevici - Armas, Golovatenco, Epureanu, Racu (Andronic 70), Cebotaru (Tigirlas 78), Cheptine, Doros, Suvorov, Zmeu, Alexeev (Bugaiov 61). *Sent off: Tigirlas 84min.*
San Marino: A Simoncini - Benedettini, Vannucci, Coppini, Alessandro Della Valle, S Bacciocchi (Albani 89), Berretti (Bugli 67), Cervellini, A Gasperoni (Montagna 76), Selva, M Vitaioli.

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Sunderland's Danny Welbeck made his first competitive appearance, appearing as a sub, and cannot now switch his allegiance to Ghana, where his parents were born.

LITHUANIA

Zutautas resigns

National coach Raimondas Zutautas quit after Lithuania's Euro 2012 qualifying campaign ended with a 4-1 defeat by the Czech Republic.

"Since I, as manager, failed to fulfil the task, I am ending my work with the team," said Zutautas.

Taking the blame...Zutautas

MEXICO

Drug tests flawed

The five players who tested positive for clenbuterol will face no further action after FIFA said the results were caused by contaminated meat. Mexico won the Gold Cup despite the absence of Guillermo Ochoa, Edgar Duenas, Francisco Rodriguez, Antonio Naelson and Christian Bermudez.

MOROCCO

Olympic games moved

Morocco has stepped in to replace Egypt as host nation for Africa's Olympic qualifying competition.

Marrakech and Tangiers will be the main venues for the eight-team under-23 competition, with additional stadiums available in Rabat and Fes. The tournament will run from November 26 to December 10.

The Egyptian Football Association said it could not host the qualifiers because of security concerns.

Oct 11 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (Kallstrom 14, S Larsson pen 52, Toivonen 53)
Holland 2 (Huntelaar 22, Kuyt 50)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,069. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Sweden: Isaksson - Lustig, Majstorovic, Mellberg, M Olsson, R Elm, A Svensson, Kallstrom, Toivonen (Wernbloom 75), S Larsson, Elmander.
Holland: Vorm - Van der Wiel, Bruma, Mathijsen, Pieters, Van Persie, Strootman (L De Jong 81), Van Bommel, Van der Vaart, Kuyt (Elia 73), Huntelaar.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland (Q)	10	9	0	1	37	8	27
Sweden (Q)	10	8	0	2	31	11	24
Hungary	10	6	1	3	22	14	19
Finland	10	3	1	6	16	16	10
Moldova	10	3	0	7	12	16	9
San Marino	10	0	0	10	0	53	0

Group F

Oct 7 - Piraeus
Greece 2 (Samaras 71, Gekas 79)
Croatia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Greece: Tzorvas - Zaradoukas, A Papadopoulos, Papastathopoulos, Torosidis (Vyntra 43), Karagounis (Makos 87), Katsouranis, Tziolis (Fotakis 62), Samaras, Salpigidis, Gekas.
Croatia: Pletikosa - Strinic, Lovren, Simunic, Corluka (Vida 75), Vukojevic, Modric, Mandzukic, Kranjcar, Eduardo (Perisic 52), Jelavic (Kalinic 61).

Oct 7 - Riga
Latvia 2 (Visnakovs 33, Rudnevs 83)
Malta 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,315. **Ref:** Trutz (Slk)
Latvia: Vanins - Klava, Mihadjuks, Laizans (Rugins 76), Ivanovs, Visnakovs, Cauna, Gorkss, Rudnevs (Gauracs 88), Lukjanovs, Verpakovskis (Rubins 90+1).
Malta: Hogg - Borg, Sciberras (P Fenech 83), A Agius, R Fenech (Mamo 82), Failla, Briffa, Schembri, Pace (Woods 70), Cohen, Hutchinson.

Oct 11 - Rijeka
Croatia 2 (Eduardo 66, Mandzukic 72)
Latvia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Gautier (Fra)
Croatia: Pletikosa - Strinic, Simunic, Lovren, Corluka (Vida 34), Kranjcar (Perisic 59), Rakitic, Modric, Srna, Mandzukic (Jelavic 85), Eduardo.
Latvia: Vanins - Ivanovs, Gorkss, Klava, Mihadjuks, Rugins (Tarasovs 81), Laizans, Cauna, Visnakovs (Rubins 88), Pereplotkins (Gauracs 72), Rudnevs.

Oct 11 - Tbilisi
Georgia 1 (Targamadze 19)
Greece 2 (Fotakis 78, Charisteas 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Georgia: Revishvili - Grigalashvili (A Iashvili 51), Amisulashvili, Khizanishvili, Kashia, Kaladze, Martsvaladze, Kankava (Lobzhanidze 42), Targamadze, Kobiashvili, Mchedlidze (Guruli 65).
Greece: Tzorvas - Spyropoulos, Tziolis (Fotakis 56), Papastathopoulos, Vyntra, K Papadopoulos, Katsouranis, Salpigidis (Athanasiadis 68), Karagounis, Gekas (Kone 90+1), Charisteas.

Oct 11 - Valletta
Malta 0
Israel 2 (Rafaelov 11, Gershon 90+3)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,164. **Ref:** Paixao (Por)
Malta: Hogg - J Caruana (Borg 82), Mamo, Sciberras, A Agius, R Fenech, Briffa, M Mifsud, P Fenech (Herrera 64), Hutchinson, Woods (C Caruana 81).
Israel: Aouate - Bondarv (Vermouth 57), Tawatha, Gershon, Biton, Buzaglo, Natcho, Golasa, Rafaelov (A Cohen 49), Sahar (Ben Haim 78), Hemed.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece (Q)	10	7	3	0	14	5	24
Croatia (P)	10	7	1	2	18	7	22
Israel	10	5	1	4	13	11	16
Latvia	10	3	2	5	9	12	11
Georgia	10	2	4	4	7	9	10
Malta	10	0	1	9	4	21	1

Group G

Oct 7 - Podgorica
Montenegro 2 (Zverotic 45, Delibasic 90+1)
England 2 (Young 11, Bent 31)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 12,700. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Montenegro: M Bozovic - Zverotic, Savic, Dzudovic, V Bozovic (Delibasic 79), Kascelan (Jovanovic 46), Pekovic, Vukcevic, Jovetic, Beqiraj (Damjanovic 64), Vucinic.
England: Hart - Jones, Cahill, Terry, A Cole, Barry, Parker, Walcott (Welbeck 76), Young (Downing 60), Rooney, Bent (Lampard 64). *Sent off: Rooney 74min.*

Oct 7 - Swansea
Wales 2 (Ramsey pen 60, Bale 71)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,317. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Blake, Williams, Taylor, Bale, Crofts (Vaughan 81), Ramsey, Allen, Bellamy, Morison (Church 81).
Switzerland: Benaglio - Lichtsteiner, Von Bergen, Klose, Ziegler, F Frei (Emeghara 70), Inler, Shaqiri (Rodriguez 62), Xhaka (Mehmedi 80), Behrami, Derdiyok. *Sent off: Ziegler 55min.*

Oct 11 - Sofia
Bulgaria 0
Wales 1 (Bale 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,200. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Bulgaria: Mihaylov - Manolev (Detev 52), Zanev, Milev, Terziev, Gadzhev, Tonev, S Petrov, I Popov (Rangelov 70), Domovchiyski (Bozhinov 62), I Ivanov.
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Williams, Blake (Matthews 41), Taylor, Allen, Ramsey, Crofts, Bale, Bellamy, Morison (Church 69).

Oct 11 - Basle
Switzerland 2 (Derdiyok 51, Lichtsteiner 65)
Montenegro 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,997. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
Switzerland: Benaglio - Lichtsteiner, Djourou, Von Bergen, Rodriguez, Behrami, Inlrr, Xhaka (Fernandes 84), Shaqiri (D Degen 77), Mehmedi, Derdiyok (Emeghara 69).
Montenegro: M Bozovic - D Bozovic, Savic, Batak, Pejovic (V Bozovic 46), Zverotic, Beqiraj, Cetkovic, Drincic (Grbic 72), Damjanovic, Djalovic (Delibasic 67).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England (Q)	8	5	3	0	17	5	18
Montenegro (P)	8	3	3	2	7	7	12
Switzerland	8	3	2	3	12	10	11
Wales	8	3	0	5	6	10	9
Bulgaria	8	1	2	5	3	13	5

Group H

Oct 7 - Nicosia
Cyprus 1 (Avraam 45+1)
Denmark 4 (Jacobsen 7, Rommedahl 11, 22, Krohn-Dehli 20)
HT: 1-4. **Att:** 1,800. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
Cyprus: Giorgallides - Merkis, Pelagia, Charalambides, Konstantinou (Christofi 62), Dobrasinovic, Alexandrou, Avraam, Poursaitides (Solomou 46), Demetriou (Satsias 71), Efrem.
Denmark: T Sorensen - Zimling (Martin Jorgensen 68), Kjaer, Bjelland, S Poulsen, Jacobsen (Silberbauer 82), Kvist, Eriksen, Krohn-Dehli, Rommedahl (C Poulsen 71), Bendtner.

Oct 7 - Porto
Portugal 5 (Nani 13, 21, Helder Postiga 44, Joao Moutinho 81, Eliseu 87)
Iceland 3 (Jonasson 48, 68, G Sigurdsson pen 90+4)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 35,715. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Joao Pereira, Bruno Alves, Rolando, Eliseu, Carlos Martins (Ruben Micael 72), Raul Meireles (Miguel Veloso 60), Joao Moutinho, Nani, Helder Postiga (Nuno Gomes 88), Cristiano Ronaldo.
Iceland: Magnusson - Valgardsson, Ottesen, K Sigurdsson, B Saevarsson, Jonasson (Smarason 89), A Gunnarsson, B Bjarnason, J Gudmundsson (Finnbogason 81), G Sigurdsson, R Gislason (Vilhjalmsson 89).

Oct 11 - Copenhagen
Denmark 2 (Krohn-Dehli 13, Bendtner 63)
Portugal 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 90+2)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,015. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Denmark: T Sorensen - Jacobsen, Kjaer, Bjelland, Silberbauer (S Poulsen 77), Kvist, Zimling (C Poulsen 71), Rommedahl (J Poulsen 88), Eriksen, Krohn-Dehli, Bendtner.
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Joao Pereira, Rolando, Bruno Alves, Eliseu (Miguel Veloso 65), Carlos Martins (Ricardo Quaresma 65), Raul Meireles, Joao Moutinho, Nani, Helder Postiga (Nuno Gomes 78), Cristiano Ronaldo.

Oct 11 - Oslo
Norway 3 (Gamst Pedersen 25, Carew 34, Hogli 65)
Cyprus 1 (Okkas 42)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 13,490. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Norway: Jarstein - Hogli, Waehler, Demidov, J A Riise, Ruud (Brenne 63), Tettey (Jenssen 82), Grindheim, Gamst Pedersen (Parr 46), Huseklepp, Carew.
Cyprus: Kissas - Charalambous, Merkis, Pelagia (Parpas 6), Solomou, Satsias, Avraam, Demetriou, Dobrasinovic, Charalambides (Christofi 62), Okkas (Stavrou 82).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark (Q)	8	6	1	1	15	6	19
Portugal (P)	8	5	1	2	21	12	16
Norway	8	5	1	2	10	7	16
Iceland	8	1	1	6	6	14	4
Cyprus	8	0	2	6	7	20	2

Group I

Oct 7 - Prague
Czech Republic 0
Spain 2 (Mata 7, Xabi Alonso 23)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 17,873. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Czech Republic: Cech - Gebre Selassie, Kadlec, Hubnik, Hubschman, Sivok, Kolar (Vacek 76), Jiracek, Rosicky, Pudil, Baros (Pekhart 62). *Sent off: Hubschman 70min.*
Spain: Casillas - Sergio Ramos (Puyol 46), Pique, Albiol, Arbeloa, Busquets, Xabi Alonso (Javi Martinez 70), Xavi, Silva, Mata, Fernando Torres (Villa 61).

Oct 8 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Scotland 1 (Mackail-Smith 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,636. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Rechsteiner, Ritzberger, Martin Stocklasa, Kaufmann, T Beck, Polverino, M Buchel (W Kieber 71), Hanselmann (Eberle 75), N Hasler, M Frick.
Scotland: McGregor - Hutton, G Caldwell, Berra, Bardsley, D Fletcher, Adam (Cowie 76), Bannan (Forrest 73), Morrison, Naismith, Mackail-Smith.

Oct 11 - Kaunas
Lithuania 1 (Sernas pen 68)
Czech Republic 4 (Kadlec pen 2, pen 85, Rezek 16, 45)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
Lithuania: Karcemarskas - Stankevicius, Skerla, Zaliukas, Radavicius, Vicius, Pilibaitis (Beniusis 74), Mikoliunas, Ivaskevicius (Novikovas 46), Sernas, Poskus (Panka 57).
Czech Republic: Cech - Gebre Selassie, Kadlec, Hubnik, Sivok, Plasil, Kolar, Jiracek, Pilar (Pudil 70), Baros (Pekhart 59), Rezek (Pospech 82). *Sent off: Hubnik 67min.*

Oct 11 - Alicante
Spain 3 (Silva 6, 44, Villa 54)
Scotland 1 (Goodwillie pen 66)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Spain: Valdes - Sergio Ramos, Pique, Puyol (Arbeloa 46), Jordi Alba, Xavi (Llorente 62), Busquets, Cazorla, Pedro, Villa, Silva (Thiago 55).
Scotland: McGregor - Hutton, G Caldwell, Berra, Bardsley, Adam (Forrest 63), Morrison, Bannan (Goodwillie 63), D Fletcher (Cowie 85), Naismith, Mackail-Smith.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain (Q)	8	8	0	0	26	6	24
Czech Rep (P)	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Scotland	8	3	2	3	9	10	11
Lithuania	8	1	2	5	4	13	5
Liechtenstein	8	1	1	6	3	17	4

The 9 group winners and the runner-up with the best record (against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups – see following table) qualified automatically for the finals. The 8 other runners-up have been drawn in 4 head-to-head, 2-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify for the finals. Co-hosts Poland and Ukraine qualified automatically

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for finals (P) = entered play-offs

Play-offs draw

Bosnia-Herzegovina v Portugal
Czech Republic v Montenegro
Estonia v Republic of Ireland
Turkey v Croatia
1st legs - Nov 11/12; 2nd legs - Nov 15

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – RUNNERS-UP TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	8	6	0	2	20	11	18
Portugal	8	5	1	2	21	12	16
Croatia	8	5	1	2	12	6	16
Rep Ireland	8	4	3	1	10	6	15
Bosnia-Herz	8	4	2	2	9	8	14
Czech Rep	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Estonia	8	4	1	3	13	11	13
Montenegro	8	3	3	2	7	7	12
Turkey	8	3	2	3	8	10	11

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Captain in waiting...Davis

MOZAMBIQUE

Engels in charge

Former Urawa Red Diamonds coach Gert Engels is the new boss of Mozambique's national side.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Skipper on target

Made skipper to mark the occasion of his 50th cap, Steven Davis opened the scoring for Northern Ireland against Estonia but could not prevent his side losing 2-1 at Windsor Park.

The Rangers midfielder hopes to be named as the long-term successor to previous captain Aaron Hughes who, at 31, has announced his retirement from international football to concentrate on his club career with Premier League side Fulham.

Last appearance...Karhan

SLOVAKIA

Karhan misses out

Miroslav Karhan retired from international football after a 1-0 loss at home to Russia denied the 35-year-old the chance of adding to his 107 caps at next summer's European Championship.

The Spartak Trnava midfielder missed last year's World Cup finals in South Africa through injury.

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A

Oct 8 - Praia
Cape Verde Islands 2 (Valdo 3, Ryan Mendes 13)
Zimbabwe 1 (Musona pen 68)
HT: 2-0

Oct 8 - Paynesville
Liberia 2 (Williams 2, Wleh 90)
Mali 2 (Diabate 16, Kante 87)
HT: 1-1

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali (Q)	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Cape Verde	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Zimbabwe	6	2	2	2	7	5	8
Liberia	6	1	2	3	7	12	5

Group B

Oct 8 - Addis Abeba
Ethiopia 4 (Oukri 31, Girma 56, Lemessa 59, Bekele 73)
Madagascar 2 (Razafimandimby 3, Rakotonomenjanahary 57)
HT: 1-1

Oct 8 - Abuja
Nigeria 2 (Obinna 73, I Uche 84)
Guinea 2 (Ismael Bangoura 63, Traore 90+12)
HT: 0-0

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea (Q)	6	4	2	0	13	5	14
Nigeria	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Ethiopia	6	2	1	3	8	13	7
Madagascar	6	0	1	5	4	14	1

Group C

Oct 8 - Maputo
Mozambique 3 (Maninho 6, Dario 18, Domingues 39)
Comoros 0
HT: 3-0

Oct 8 - Chingola
Zambia 0
Libya 0

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia (Q)	6	4	1	1	11	2	13
Libya (Q)	6	3	3	0	6	1	12
Mozambique	6	2	1	3	4	6	7
Comoros	6	0	1	5	2	14	1

Group D

Oct 9 - Algiers
Algeria 2 (Yebda 2, Kadir 30)
Central African Republic 0
HT: 2-0

Oct 9 - Marrakech
Morocco 3 (Chamakh 20, Taarabt 69, Boussoufa 89)
Tanzania 1 (Sadala 40)
HT: 1-1
Morocco: Lamyaghri - Basser, El Kaddouri, El Kaoutari, Benatia, Kharja, Belhanda, Boussoufa, Assaidi (El Ahmadi 85), Taarabt (El Arabi 71), Chamakh (Fettah 88).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco (Q)	6	3	2	1	8	2	11
Cent Af Rep	6	2	2	2	5	5	8
Algeria	6	2	2	2	5	8	8
Tanzania	6	1	2	3	6	9	5

Group E

Oct 7 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 2 (Kaluyituka 15, Kanda 40)
Cameroon 3 (Eto'o 18, Mbuta 75, Choupo-Moting 79)
HT: 2-1
Cameroon: Kameni - Enoh, Bassong, Nkoulou, Bong, Song, Nguemo, Djemba (Mbuta), Moukandjo, Choupo-Moting (Noukeu), Eto'o (Kwekeu).

Oct 9 - Port Louis
Mauritius 0
Senegal 2 (Ndoye 9, P D Cisse 25)
HT: 0-2
Sent off: Badal (Mauritius) 18min
Senegal: Coundoul - Sane, Sall, A Traore, Diawara, R Gomis (Gassama 83), Diame, Kamara, Ndoye (S Camara 72), Niang, P D Cisse (M B Diouf 58).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal (Q)	6	5	1	0	16	2	16
Cameroon	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
DR Congo	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
Mauritius	6	0	0	6	2	22	0

Group F

Oct 8 - Bakau
Gambia 1 (Danso 59)
Burkina Faso 1 (Dagano 90)
HT: 0-0

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso (Q)	4	3	1	0	12	3	10
Gambia	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Namibia	4	1	0	3	3	11	3

Mauritania withdrew before group games started

Group G

Oct 8 - Cairo
Egypt 3 (Mohsen 48, 71, Salah 56)
Niger 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 8 - Nelspruit
South Africa 0
Sierra Leone 0
South Africa: Khune - Gould, Sangweni, Ngcongca, Gaxa, Claasen (Manyisa 77), Jali, Tshabalala, Khuboni, Parker (Letsholonyane 64), Mphela.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP G – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Niger (Q)	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
South Africa	6	2	3	1	4	2	9
Sierra Leone	6	2	3	1	5	5	9
Egypt	6	1	2	3	5	5	5

Group H

Oct 9 - Cotonou
Benin 0
Rwanda 1 (Kagere 8)
HT: 0-1

Oct 9 - Abidjan
Ivory Coast 2 (K Toure 70, Y Toure 90+1)
Burundi 1 (Nahimana 77)
HT: 0-0
Ivory Coast: Barry - K Toure, Zokora, Kafoumba, Boka, Y Toure, Tiote, Ya Konan (Keita 65), Kalou, Gervinho, Bony (Drogba 49).

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP H – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast (Q)	6	6	0	0	19	4	18
Rwanda	6	2	0	4	5	15	6
Burundi	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Benin	6	1	2	3	8	11	5

Group I

Oct 8 - Omdurman
Sudan 0
Ghana 2 (Gyan 11, John Mensah 20)
HT: 0-2
Ghana: Kwarasey - Paintsil, Opare, Vorsah, John Mensah, D Boateng (Abu 75), Inkoom, Muntari (L Addy 55), Agyemang-Badu, Gyan, K Asamoah (Annan 55). *Sent off: Vorsah 52min.*

Oct 8 - Lobamba
Swaziland 0
Congo 1 (Nkolo 47)
HT: 0-0

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP I – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana (Q)	6	5	1	0	13	1	16
Sudan (Q)	6	4	1	1	8	3	13
Congo	6	2	0	4	5	10	6
Swaziland	6	0	0	6	2	14	0

Group J

Oct 8 - Bissau
Guinea-Bissau 0
Angola 2 (Manucho 8, Mateus 70)
HT: 0-1

Oct 8 - Kampala
Uganda 0
Kenya 0

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP J – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola (Q)	6	4	0	2	7	5	12
Uganda	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Kenya	6	2	2	2	4	4	8
Guinea-Bissau	6	1	0	5	2	8	3

Group K

Oct 8 - N'Djamena
Chad 2 (Labbo 65, Barthelemy 90+4)
Malawi 2 (Ng'ambi 35, H Nyirenda 81)
HT: 0-1

Oct 8 - Rades
Tunisia 2 (Hicheri 35, Khelifa 79)
Togo 0
HT: 1-0
Tunisia: Balbouli - Yahia, Chammam, Hicheri, Abdennour, Ragued, Saihi, Darragi (Msakni 43), Allagui (Dhaouedi 63), Khelifa, Jemaa.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GP K – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Botswana (Q)	8	5	2	1	7	3	17
Tunisia (Q)	8	4	2	2	14	6	14
Malawi	8	2	6	0	13	8	12
Togo	8	1	3	4	6	10	6
Chad	8	0	3	5	7	20	3

The 11 group winners, the runner-up in Group K (the only 5-team group) and the 2 other runners-up with the best record (against the teams finishing 1st and 3rd in the respective groups – see following table) qualified for the finals. Co-hosts Equatorial Guinea and Gabon qualified automatically

KEY TO TABLES
(Q) = qualified for finals

AF NAT CUP QUALS – RUNNERS-UP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libya	4	2	2	0	2	0	8
Sudan	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Cape Verde	4	2	1	1	3	4	7
Nigeria	4	1	2	1	8	5	5
South Africa	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Uganda	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Cameroon	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Cent Af Rep	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
Gambia	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Rwanda	4	1	0	3	4	12	3

LONG TENG CUP

In Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Sep 30
Hong Kong 3 (Lee Wai-lim 2, Cheng Lai-hin 22, An Yeung Yiu-chung 87)
Philippines 3 (P Younghusband pen 32, Caligdong 44, 62)
HT: 2-2

Sep 30
Taiwan 3 (Huan Chiu-yi 11, Chen Po-liang 31, Wu Chun-ching 45)
Macau 0
HT: 3-0

Oct 2
Macau 1 (Leong Ka-hang 14)
Hong Kong 5 (Sham Kwok-keung 19, 74, Chan Siu-ki 42, Wong Chin-hung 51, pen 79)
HT: 1-2

Oct 2
Taiwan 0
Philippines 0

Oct 4
Philippines 2 (Caligdong 58, 87)
Macau 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 4
Taiwan 0
Hong Kong 6 (Chan Siu-ki 15, Kwok Kin-pong 25, Chan Wai-ho 40, Lee Hong-lim 42, 68, Lo Kwan-yee 76)
HT: 0-4

LONG TENG CUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	3	2	1	0	14	4	7
Philippines	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Taiwan	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Macau	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

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All-time top scorer...Forlan

URUGUAY

Forlan breaks record

Diego Forlan became his country's all-time leading scorer when his 32nd international goal gave Uruguay the lead against Paraguay in Asuncion.

Although Richard Ortiz equalised in injury time for the home side – in a game that was a repeat of this year's Copa America Final – a draw was enough for *La Celeste* to take an outright early lead at the top of the World Cup qualifying table.

USA

First win for new boss

Jurgen Klinsmann got his first victory as US coach, since taking over from Bob Bradley in July, with a 1-0 win against Honduras. But his side were beaten again next time out, going down 1-0 at home to Ecuador.

VENEZUELA

Historic victory

Athletic Bilbao defender Fernando Amorebieta scored the only goal of the game as Venezuela beat Argentina for the first time in their history. They had lost all 20 of their previous meetings with *La Albiceleste*.

Upset...Venezuela (right) get the better of Argentina

FRIENDLIES

Sunday, September 11

Sep 11 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Hazelwood 21)
Dominica 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Cambridge (StV)

Wednesday, September 14

Sep 14 - Cordoba
Argentina 0
Brazil 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)
Argentina: Orion - Cellay, Dominguez, Desabato, Pillud, Fernandez (Chavez 87), Canteros, Zapata, Papa, Martinez (Mouche 59), Boselli (Gigliotti 25).
Brazil: Jefferson - Danilo, Dede, Rever, Kleber, Ralf, Paulinho (Casemiro 87), Renato Abreu (Oscar 61), Neymar, Leandro Damiao, Ronaldinho.

Friday, September 23

Sep 23 - Paramaribo
Surinam 2 (Rijssel 25, Pinas 60)
Curacao 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pireau (Sur)

Sunday, September 25

Sep 25 - Paramaribo
Surinam 2 (Esperance 13, Drenthe 61)
Curacao 2 (Colina 27, 66)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Pireau (Sur)

Wednesday, September 28

Sep 28 - Belem
Brazil 2 (Lucas Silva 53, Neymar 75)
Argentina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,038. **Ref:** Larrionda (Uru)
Brazil: Jefferson - Danilo, Dede, Rever, Bruno Cortes (Kleber 85), Ralf, Romulo, Ronaldinho, Lucas Silva (Diego Souza 69), Borges (Fred 73), Neymar.
Argentina: Orion - Pillud (Mouche 77), Cellay, Dominguez, Desabato, Papa, Fernandez, Canteros (Bolatti 60), Guinazu, Montillo, Viatri.

Friday, September 30

Sep 30 - Osbourn
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (Burton 78)
Martinique 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Govia (A&B)

Saturday, October 1

Oct 1 - Addis Abeba
Ethiopia 1
Sudan 2 (Eldoud, Elgasim)
HT: 1-1

Sunday, October 2

Oct 2 - Osbourn
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (Byers 80)
Martinique 2 (Attely 2, Tresfield 65)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Willett (A&B)

Tuesday, October 4

Oct 4 - Addis Abeba
Ethiopia 0
Malawi 0

Wednesday, October 5

Oct 5 - Tehran
Iran 7 (Najafabadi 45, Ansarifard 50, Nekounam pen 55, Kazemian 58, pen 90, Montazeri 59, P Nouri 70)
Palestine 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Mozaffarizadeh (Irn)
Sent off: Shabir (Palestine) 89min
Iran: Haghighi (Gordan 46) - Mahini, Montazeri, Teymourian (P Nouri 46), Nekounam (Mosalman 63), Zare, Karimi (Jabbari 46), Hajsafy, Meydavoudi (G Rezaei 46), Khalatbary (Kazemian 46), Najafabadi (Ansarifard 46).

Thursday, October 6

Oct 6 - Shenzhen
China 2 (Sun Xiang 5, Gao Lin 15)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Marzouqi 86)
HT: 2-0
China: Yang Zhi (Zhang Lie 46) - Wu Xi (Liu Jianye 46), Li Weifeng, Du Wei, Sun Xiang, Yu Hanchao (Zhang Wenzhao 46), Zheng Zhi, Huang Bowen, Feng Renliang, Chen Tao (Deng Zhuoxiang 46), Gao Lin.

Oct 6 - Bangkok
Thailand 0
Jordan 0

Friday, October 7

Oct 7 - Canberra
Australia 5 (Wilkshire 2, Kennedy 33, 45, Brosque 38, 69)
Malaysia 0
HT: 4-0
Australia: Federici (Coe 46) - Neill, Zullo (Jedinak 69), Williams, Ognenovski (Spiranovic 46), Wilkshire (Kruse 61), Valeri (Sarota 46), McKay, Kilkenny, Kennedy (Troisi 46), Brosque.

Oct 7 - San Jose
Costa Rica 0
Brazil 1 (Neymar 59)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)
Costa Rica: Navas - Mora, Umana, Miller, Diaz, Azofeifa, Barrantes (Cubero 50), Bolanos (Hernandez 66), Oviedo (Madrigal 79), Saborio, W Parks (Campbell 63). *Sent off: Mora 83min.*
Brazil: Julio Cesar (Jefferson 74) - Fabio (Daniel Alves 53), David Luiz, Thiago Silva, Adriano Correia, Ralf, Luiz Gustavo (Hernanes 46), Ronaldinho, Lucas Silva (Oscar 46), Neymar (Hulk 73), Fred (Jonas 82).

Oct 7 - Cannes, France
Gabon 2 (Meye 43, Madinda 59)
Equatorial Guinea 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 7 - Kobe
Japan 1 (Lee 24)
Vietnam 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27,522. **Ref:** Mahapab (Tha)
Japan: Nishikawa - Inoha (Abe 46), Komano, Nagatomo (Kurihara 46), Konno, Kajino (Yoshida 68), Hosogai, Hasebe (K Nakamura 46), Kagawa (Haraguchi 46), Fujimoto, Lee.
Vietnam: Bui Tan Truong - Le Phuoc Tu, Tran Chi Cong, Huynh Quang Thanh, Doan Viet Cuong, Nguyen Minh Chau (Nguyen Van Quyet 78), Nguyen Cong Huy, Le Tan Tai (Nguyen Ngoc Thanh 59), Nguyen Trong Hoang (Nguyen Anh Tuan 89), Pham Thanh Luong (Hoang Dinh Tung 67), Le Cong Vinh (Nguyen Quang Hai 81). *Sent off: Tran Chi Cong.*

Oct 7 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Saudi Arabia 0
Indonesia 0

Oct 7 - Singapore
Singapore 2 (Shaiful 51, Duric 64)
Philippines 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 7 - Seoul
South Korea 2 (Park Chu-young 66, 77)
Poland 2 (R Lewandowski 30, Blaszczykowski 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 33,225. **Ref:** Shukralla (Bhn)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Lee Jae-sung, Kwak Tae-hwi, Hong Jeong-ho (Cho Byung-kuk 80), Hong Chul (Choi Hyo-jin 88), Ji Dong-won, Ki Sung-yeung (Koo Ja-cheol 58), Yoon Bit-garam (Lee Yong-rae 46), Nam Tae-hee (Seo Jung-jin 58), Park Chu-young (Lee Keun-ho 81), Lee Dong-gook (Son Heung-min 46).
Poland: Fabianski - Wasilewski, Wojtkowiak, Perquis, Wawrzyniak, Blaszczykowski (Komorowski 86), Dudka (Peszko 79), Polanski (Matuszczyk 63), Murawski (Jodlowiec 90), Rybus (A Mierzejewski 71), R Lewandowski (Pawel Brozek 68).

Oct 7 - Kiev
Ukraine 3 (Selin 7, Shevchenko 38, Yarmolenko 83)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Karlovets (Cze)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Butko (Fedetskyi 81), Mykhalyk, Chygrynskyi, Selin, Husiev (Konoplyanka 46), Tymoshchuk, Harmash (Rotan 46), Yarmolenko (Nazarenko 86), Milevskyi (Aliyev 65), Shevchenko (Selezniov 53).
Bulgaria: Mihaylov (V Stoyanov 46) - Manolev, Bandalovski (Terziev 54), K Stoyanov, I Ivanov, Zlatinski (Milanov 67), Tsvetkov, Gadzhev (Georgiev 50), S Petrov, Bozhinov (Domovchiyski 50), Rangelov (I Popov 46).

Saturday, October 8

Oct 8 - Miami
United States 1 (Dempsey 36)
Honduras 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,170. **Ref:** Campbell (Jam)
United States: Howard - Cherundolo, Orozco Fiscal (Onyewu 46), Bocanegra, Chandler (Spector 76), Beckerman, Williams (Beasley 65), Edu (Bradley 65), Shea, Dempsey, Altidore (Agudelo 83).
Honduras: Escober - Sabillon, O Chavez, Leveron, Figueroa, O Garcia (M Chavez 77), Mejia, Espinoza (Claros 74), De Leon (M Martinez 69), Bengtson (Rojas 65), Costly.

Tuesday, October 11

Oct 11 - Malabo
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Douala 31)
Cameroon 1 (Kweuke 13)
HT: 1-1
Cameroon: Goda - Bassong (Nkoulou 46), Abouna, Song (Bong 46), Bedimo, Nounkeu, Enoh (Nguemo 46), Djemba, Adongcho, Kweuke (Moukandjo 45), Salli.

Oct 11 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Ukraine 2 (Husiev 45, Aliyev 69)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,501. **Ref:** Malek (Pol)
Estonia: Pareiko (Kotenko 58) - Barengrub, Enar Jaager (Sisov 46), Klavan, Stepanov, Teniste (Kruglov 46), Dmitrijev, S Puri (Vassiljev 46), Vunk, Kink (Purje 65), Ahjupera (Saag 46).
Ukraine: Rybka - Butko (Fedetskyi 85), Chygrynskyi, Mykhalyk, Selin, Aliyev (Gai 74), Harmash (Nazarenko 46), Tymoshchuk (Rotan 71), Husiev (Yarmolenko 46), Konoplyanka, Milevskyi (Selezniov 71).

Oct 11 - Watford, England
Ghana 0
Nigeria 0
Att: 7,500. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Ghana: Kwarasey - Paintsil, Vorsah, John Mensah, Alhassan (L Addy 66), Annan, Owusu-Abeyie (Inkoom 46), Abu (Agyemang-Badu 54), Adomah (Adiyiah 54), K Asamoah (Muntari 46), Tagoe (Gyan 46).
Nigeria: Ejide - Ambrose, Yobo, Adeleye, Taiwo, Musa (K Uche 60), Ogude, Obi (Mikel 70), Obinna (Obasi 80), Brown (Emenike 74), I Uche (Utaka 86).

Oct 11 - La Ceiba
Honduras 2 (Bengtson 1, M Martinez 55)
Jamaica 1 (Phillips 45)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Moreno (Pan)
Honduras: Escober - O Chavez (Leveron 77), Figueroa, Beckeles, Norales, Claros, Espinoza, M Martinez (Mejia 75), De Leon (Mendez 88), Rojas, Bengtson (O Garcia 71).
Jamaica: Miller - Thomas, J Taylor, Smith, Morrison (Watson 71), Elliott, Austin, Phillips, K Daley, Cummings (Bean 81), Richards (Damian Williams 78).

Oct 11 - Torreon
Mexico 1 (David Luiz og 10)
Brazil 2 (Ronaldinho 79, Marcelo 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Mejia (ESv)
Mexico: O Sanchez (Talavera 89) - Juarez (Perez 52), F Rodriguez, Salcido, Torres Nilo (Moreno 68), Marquez, I Castro, Guardado, Barrera (Andrade 81), G Dos Santos (Peralta 81), J Hernandez.
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves, David Luiz, Thiago Silva, Marcelo, Lucas Leiva, Fernandinho, Ronaldinho (Hernanes 90+3), Lucas Silva (Adriano Correia 46), Neymar (Elias 88), Hulk (Jonas 80).
Sent off: Daniel Alves 44min.

Oct 11 - Manila
Philippines 4 (P Younghusband 17, 55, J Younghusband 29, Hartmann 89)
Nepal 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000

Oct 11 - Wiesbaden, Germany
Poland 2 (Blaszczykowski 31, R Lewandowski 69)
Belarus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,116. **Ref:** Sippel (Ger)
Poland: Fabianski - Piszczek, Wasilewski, Perquis (Dudka 79), Wawrzyniak, Blaszczykowski, Polanski, Murawski (Jodlowiec 72), A Mierzejewski (Rybus 60), Peszko (Gol 87), Pawel Brozek (R Lewandowski 59).
Belarus: Zhevnov (Veremko 46) - Shitov (Voronkov 46), Verkhovtsov (Plaskonny 46), Martynovich, Omelyanchuk, Kalachev (Krivets 87), Rudik (Bychanok 88), Kulchy, Kislyak, Trubilo, Kornilenko (Bordachev 80).

Oct 11 - Harrison
United States 0
Ecuador 1 (J Ayovi 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,707. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
United States: Howard - Cherundolo (Spector 46), Onyewu, Bocanegra (Ream 72), Chandler, Beckerman, Williams (Buddle 65), Edu (Bradley 46), Shea (Beasley 46), Dempsey, Altidore (Agudelo 46).
Ecuador: Banguera - Morante, Erazo, Achilier, W Ayovi, Valencia (Suarez 63), Mendez (Saritama 69), Castillo, Montero (J Ayovi 60), Benitez (Campos 90), Arroyo (Paredes 86).

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AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALIFIERS

Libya lead the new African order

Under attack...Libya's Ali Salama (in white) clears his lines as Jacob Mulenga of Zambia closes in during their final qualifying game

Ten qualifiers were determined on the last weekend of the African Nations Cup group stage, with Libya's remarkable success the highlight of an absorbing campaign.

The war-torn north African country ended their campaign unbeaten, but in second place behind Zambia, and qualified as one of the two best runners-up, along with Sudan, who went through despite losing at home in their last preliminary game.

Libya always knew they had a chance to grab one of the two additional berths and played a defensive game away in Chingola to draw with Zambia and finish one point behind them in Group C.

The tactic gave little indication of the true potential of the Libya side, but the enormity of their feat and the obstacles they overcame ensured a fairy-tale finish.

It was a game they might have lost had it not been for some poor finishing by Zambia and fine goalkeeping from veteran Samir Aboud. Indeed, so incensed were the hosts at their failure to end the campaign with a home win that they fired their Italian coach Dario Bonetti after the game.

In contrast, Libya's Brazilian coach Marcos Paqueta was the centre of fervent celebrations for a team who, because of the rebellion in their country, played all but one of their matches away from home. Two of their home games had to be moved to neutral venues but, despite the odds stacked against them, Libya progressed with a team that included players who had been fighting with the rebels and others who were in the squad at the 2006 Nations Cup finals, firmly under the banner and baring the symbols of the Gaddafi regime.

Libya's shock progress was matched by that of Niger, who finished ahead of both South Africa and Egypt in Group G. However, their progress had as much to do with turning their home ground in Niamey into a veritable fortress as it did with the folly of South Africa coach Pitso Mosimane, who failed to read the rules and played for a draw when his team needed to win their last game.

Niger will be one of three newcomers at the finals, along with Botswana and Equatorial Guinea, who are one of the co-hosts.

Ivory Coast and Senegal had already booked their places before the last round of matches, as had Burkina Faso, albeit still awaiting the outcome of a protest against the fact that they have been fielding ineligible players.

Nigeria went into their last game three points behind Guinea but needing to only win 1-0 to take the group on a head-to-head count out. Any other score would have tilted the advantage Guinea's way, so when Ismael Bangoura scored for the *Syli Nationale* against the run of play, Nigeria's hopes were sent sprawling. They did fight back, with Victor Obinna and Ikechukwu Uche making it 2-1, but they still needed another goal to win the group. Those hopes ended with a goal from Ibrahim Traore to ensure a 2-2 draw and Guinea's progress.

Tunisia scrapped through, starting the last round level on points with Malawi in Group K but with an inferior head-to-head record. Unbeaten Malawi would qualify if they beat Chad away while Tunisia had to win at home to Togo at the same time. It looked all over for Tunisia as Malawi led 2-1 going into stoppage time in Ndjamena, only for Chad to equalise. That meant goals from Walid Hicheri and Saber Khelifa in Tunisia's 2-0 win at Rades saw them through.

Angola also scrapped through, beating Guinea Bissau 2-0 to slip into first place as Uganda drew 0-0 with Kenya in Kampala.

World Cup quarter-finalists Ghana beat Sudan to qualify, while Alain Giresse's Mali got the draw they needed away in Liberia.

Mark Gleeson

All over...Nigeria go out to Guinea

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2012

The 16 teams who will compete in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea are:

ANGOLA
BOTSWANA
BURKINA FASO
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
GABON
GHANA
GUINEA
IVORY COAST
LIBYA
MALI
MOROCCO
NIGER
SENEGAL
SUDAN
TUNISIA
ZAMBIA

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EURO 2012 QUALIFYING

Four places still to play for

And then they were 12. In the final round of qualifiers, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Russia and Sweden all qualified for next summer's finals, joining Germany, Holland, Italy and Spain, who had secured their places in September, and co-hosts Poland and Ukraine.

With Germany already through as the winners of **Group A**, it was left to Turkey and Belgium to fight it out for second place. In their penultimate match Turkey lost to Germany 3-1 in Istanbul, while Belgium beat Kazakhstan 4-1 in Brussels, which meant Belgium had to match Turkey's result against Azerbaijan – a tall order given they faced Germany in Dusseldorf.

In the end, Germany maintained their 100 per cent record, beating Belgium 3-1, while Turkey laboured to a 1-0 win over Azerbaijan to clinch second place.

Group B leaders Russia were left with the simple task of beating Andorra in their final match after beating Slovakia 1-0 in Zilina, thanks to Alan Dzagoev's long-range strike. But the most interesting story was developing elsewhere in the group, with Armenia, having beaten Slovakia in September, overcoming Macedonia 4-1 to put pressure on second-placed Republic of Ireland. The Irish were comfortable winners over Andorra in their penultimate game, but needed at least a draw with Armenia in Dublin to confirm their runners-up spot.

The Irish enjoyed some good fortune when Armenia goalkeeper Roman Berezovsky was sent off after appearing to handle outside his box and then Valeri Aleksanyan turned the ball into his own net. Richard Dunne doubled the lead after the break, but Henrik Mkhitaryan's strike ensured a nervy final half hour before Ireland could celebrate second place.

Group C produced one of the biggest stories of the final round of matches, with Serbia losing to Slovenia, allowing Estonia, who had won their previous match away in Northern Ireland, to take the runners-up spot (see page 12).

Serbia captain Nemanja Vidic, who announced his international retirement after the game, missed a second-half penalty, while Slovenia's Dare Vrsic scored a looping 40-yard free-kick which deflected in off the crossbar. Italy, who had already qualified, beat Northern Ireland 3-0 in Pescara.

In **Group D** Bosnia-Herzegovina were 12 minutes away from a dramatic victory in Paris (see page 35) but had to settle for the runners-up spot.

In **Group E**, a dramatic 3-2 victory over Holland ensured automatic qualification for Sweden. They finished as the qualifying competition's best runners-up after PSV striker Ola Toivonen scored the winning goal in Solna.

Greece leapfrogged Croatia at the top of **Group F** after winning their crucial meeting between the two sides in the penultimate group game. A tense, nervous match in Piraeus was settled by second-half goals from Giorgios Samaras and Theofanis Gekas. Eintracht Frankfurt striker Gekas had retired from the national side following Otto Rehhagel's departure after the 2010 World Cup but had a change of heart after observing the team's unbeaten run under Rehhagel's successor, Fernando Santos.

Another veteran striker returning after a year's absence, Angelos Charisteas, was on target four days later as Greece beat Georgia 2-1 in Tbilisi to confirm first place in the group. On the same night Croatia beat Latvia 2-0 in Rijeka but the result was academic.

As expected England topped **Group G**, but their 2-2 draw with Montenegro proved anything but predictable, with England having Wayne Rooney sent off for violent foul play after kicking out at Miodrag Dzudovic. Montenegrin fans celebrated, safe in the knowledge that they could afford to lose to Switzerland in their final game and still finish second in the group.

Elsewhere, Wales finished in impressive style, with victories over Switzerland and Bulgaria.

In **Group H**, an injury-time goal from Cristiano Ronaldo, from a sweetly-struck free-kick, was too late to save Portugal from the play-offs. Denmark, 2-1 winners in Copenhagen thanks to earlier goals from Michael Krohn-Dehli and Niklas Bendtner topped the group (see page 34) while Norway, despite a 3-1 victory over Cyprus, finished with an inferior goal difference to the Portuguese.

Group I winners Spain joined Germany as the only other team to finish with a 100 per cent record in qualifying after a comfortable 3-1 victory over Scotland in Alicante.

Four days earlier, Spain had beaten the Czech Republic 2-0 in Prague, with coach Vicente Del Bosque praising midfield scorers Juan Mata and David Silva. That result had briefly raised hopes that Scotland, 1-0 winners over Liechtenstein on the same night, could still finish second. However, while the Scots were being given a masterclass by Spain, the Czechs won 4-1 in Lithuania to take second place from the Scots.

The Spanish performance against Scotland, with goals from David Silva (two) and David Villa, confirmed the world and European champions as the favourites for next summer's finals.

John Holmesdale

EURO 2012 FINALISTS

HOSTS
POLAND, UKRAINE

AUTOMATIC QUALIFIERS
DENMARK, ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HOLLAND, ITALY, RUSSIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN

PLAY-OFFS
BOSNIA OR PORTUGAL, CROATIA OR TURKEY, ESTONIA OR REP OF IRELAND, MONTENEGRO OR CZECH REPUBLIC

Second best...Kim Kallstrom (no9) gives Sweden the lead but they had to come from 2-1 down to beat Holland to ensure qualification

ESM TEAM OF THE MONTH SEPT 2011

European Sports Media

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group vote for their first XI from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted this month, visit www.worldsoccer.com/esm11

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

The members of ESM are:

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Sport (Belgium)
Sport Express (Russia)
De Telegraaf (Holland)
TIPSbladet (Denmark)
World Soccer (England)

SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich)	6 votes
Iker Casillas (Real Madrid)	1
Marc-Andre Ter Stegen (Bor M'gladbach)	1
Tolga Zengin (Trabzonspor)	1
Ron-Robert Zieler (Hanover)	1

DEFENDERS

Holger Badstuber (Bayern Munich)	5
Daniel Van Buyten (Bayern Munich)	4
Phil Jones (Manchester United)	3
Dani Alves (Barcelona)	3
Patrice Evra (Manchester United)	2
Vincent Kompany (Manchester City)	2
Marcelo (Real Madrid)	2
Rafinha (Bayern Munich)	2
Thiago Silva (Milan)	2
Jose Bosingwa (Chelsea)	1
Ricardo Carvalho (Real Madrid)	1
Paulo Jorge (APOEL)	1
Philipp Lahm (Bayern Munich)	1
Michel Bastos (Lyon)	1
Gerard Pique (Barcelona)	1
Lukasz Pisczek (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Adil Rami (Valencia)	1
Chris Smalling (Manchester United)	1
Nicolas Spolli (Catania)	1
Nemanja Vidic (Manchester United)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona)	6
Franck Ribery (Bayern Munich)	6
Nani (Manchester United)	3
Xavi (Barcelona)	3
Javier Pastore (Paris Saint-Germain)	2
Andrea Pirlo (Juventus)	2
David Silva (Manchester City)	2
Andres Iniesta (Barcelona)	2
Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli)	1
Dries Mertens (PSV Eindhoven)	1
Jon Obi Mikel (Chelsea)	1
Samir Nasri (Manchester City)	1
Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid)	1
Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern Munich)	1

FORWARDS

Lionel Messi (Barcelona)	10
Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich)	5
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)	5
Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)	5
Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)	3
Falcao (Atletico Madrid)	1
Thomas Muller (Bayern Munich)	1
Robin Van Persie (Arsenal)	1

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ARMENIA

Super Cup success

Pyunik retained the Armenian Super Cup with a 3-0 victory over Banants.

Aram Hovsepyan, David Minasyan and Vardan Bakalyan were on target for the reigning league champions, who trail Ulisses by eight points in their bid for an 11th consecutive Premier League title.

AUSTRIA

Admira top at long last

Admira went top of the Bundesliga for the first time in 18 years with their 4-3 win at home to Rapid Vienna.

Having led 3-0 at half-time, Admira were pegged back by three Rapid goals in 19 minutes before Patrik Jezek scored from the penalty spot three minutes from time to enable the home side to go above Salzburg, who lost 3-2 away to Austria Vienna.

BELARUS

BATE close in on title

BATE Borisov are nine points clear with six games to go in the Premier League.

Top...Richard Windbichler of Admira (in red) against Rapid

23 consecutive Champions League matches in which Barcelona have now managed to score, setting a new record for the competition

Club Results

EUROPE

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP

Aug 26 - Monaco (Louis II)
Barcelona (Spa) 2 (Messi 39, Fabregas 88)
Porto (Por) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,048. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Mascherano, Abidal, Adriano (Busquets 63), Xavi, Keita, Iniesta, Pedro (Fabregas 80), Messi, Villa (Sanchez 61).
Porto: Helton - Sapunara, Rolando, Otamendi, Fucile, Guarin, Souza (Fernando 77), Joao Moutinho, Hulk, Kleber (Belluschi 77), Rodriguez (Silvestre Varela 69). *Sent off: Rolando 86min, Guarin 90min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 14
Manchester City (Eng) 1 (Kolarov 74)
Napoli (Ita) 1 (Cavani 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,026. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Man City: Hart - Zabaleta, Kompany, Lescott, Kolarov (Clichy 75), Y Toure, Barry, Silva, Aguero, Nasri (Johnson 76), Dzeko (Tevez 81).
Napoli: De Sanctis - Campagnaro, Cannavaro, Aronica, Maggio, Inler, Gargano, Zuniga, Hamsik (Santana 89), Lavezzi (Dzemaili 58), Cavani (Pandev 84).

Villarreal (Spa) 0
Bayern Munich (Ger) 2 (Kroos 7, Rafinha 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 19,168. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Villarreal: Diego Lopez - Mario, Zapata, Musacchio, Catala, Senna (Cani 46), Marchena, Bruno, De Guzman (Camunas 72), Rossi, Nilmar (Marco Ruben 58).
Bayern: Neuer - Boateng, Van Buyten (Rafinha 23), Badstuber, Lahm, Tymoshchuk, Schweinsteiger, Muller, Kroos (Luiz Gustavo 80), Ribery, Gomez (Petersen 46).

Sep 27
Bayern Munich 2 (Gomez 38, 45+1)
Manchester City 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 66,000. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Bayern: Neuer - Rafinha, Van Buyten, Boateng, Lahm, Luiz Gustavo, Schweinsteiger, Muller, Kroos (Tymoshchuk 82), Ribery (Robben 90), Gomez (Petersen 90+2).
Man City: Hart - Richards, K Toure, Kompany, Clichy, Y Toure, Barry (Kolarov 73), Silva, Nasri (Milner 70), Dzeko (De Jong 55), Aguero.

Sep 27
Napoli 2 (Hamsik 14, Cavani pen 17)
Villarreal 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 46,747. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Bel)
Napoli: De Sanctis - Aronica, Cannavaro, Campagnaro, Zuniga, Inler, Gargano, Dossena, Hamsik (Mascara 79), Lavezzi (Santana 88), Cavani (Pandev 72).
Villarreal: Diego Lopez - Zapata, Rodriguez (Camunas 33), Musacchio, Catala, Senna (Wakaso 83), De Guzman (Perez 83), Bruno, Cani, Nilmar, Rossi.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Napoli	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Man City	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Villarreal	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Group B

Sep 14
Internazionale (Ita) 0
Trabzonspor (Tur) 1 (Celustka 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,444. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Inter: Julio Cesar - Jonathan, Lucio, Ranocchia, Nagatomo, Zanetti, Cambiasso, Obi (Alvarez 55), Sneijder, Pazzini (Milito 55), Zarate (Coutinho 77).
Trabzonspor: Tolga - Celustka, Giray, Glowacki, Cech, Colman, Zokora, Serkan, Altintop (Aykut 88), Alanzinho (Sapara 64), Paulo Henrique (Vittek 74).

Sep 14
Lille (Fra) 2 (Sow 44, Pedretti 57)
CSKA Moscow (Rus) 2 (Doumbia 72, 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,274. **Ref:** Benquerenca (Por)
Lille: Landreau - Debuchy, Rozehnal, Basa, Beria, Balmont, Mavuba, Pedretti (Gueye 77), Obraniak (Cole 77), Sow (Rodelin 86), Hazard.
CSKA: Gabulov - Nababkin, Ignashevich, V Berezutsky, A Berezutsky, Tosic, Aldonin (Mamaev 80), Cauna (Oliseh 67), Dzagoev, Vagner Love, Doumbia (Semberas 90+3).

Sep 27
CSKA Moscow 2 (Dzagoev 45+3, Vagner Love 77)
Internazionale 3 (Lucio 6, Pazzini 23, Zarate 78)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
CSKA: Gabulov - Nababkin, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, A Berezutsky, Mamaev (Tosic 68), Aldonin, Dzagoev, Oliseh, Doumbia, Vagner Love.
Inter: Julio Cesar - Nagatomo, Samuel, Lucio, Chivu (Crisetig 90+2), Alvarez (Jonathan 84), Cambiasso, Zanetti, Obi, Milito, Pazzini (Zarate 49).

Sep 27
Trabzonspor 1 (Colman pen 75)
Lille 1 (Sow 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,349. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Trabzonspor: Tolga - Celustka, Glowacki, Giray, Cech (Sapara 82), Serkan, Colman, Alanzinho (Mierzejewski 66), Zokora, Altintop (Brozek 90+3), Paulo Henrique.
Lille: Landreau - Debuchy, Basa, Rozehnal, Beria, Mavuba, Balmont, Pedretti, Hazard, Sow, Cole (Obraniak 76).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trabzonspor	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Inter	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Lille	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
CSKA Moscow	2	0	1	1	4	5	1

Group C

Sep 14
Basle (Swi) 2 (F Frei 39, A Frei pen 84)
Otelul Galati (Rom) 1 (Pena 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,126. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Basle: Sommer - Steinhofer, Abraham, Dragovic, Park, F Frei (Pak 90+4), Cabral, Huggel, G Xhaka (Zoua 78), Streller, A Frei (Kovac 90+1). *Sent off: Huggel 87min.*
Otelul: Grahovac - Rapa, Perendija, Costin, Salageanu, Filip (Viglianti 86), Giurgiu, Antal, Ibeh, Ilie (Frunza 89), Pena (Paraschiv 71). *Sent off: Salageanu 82min.*

Sep 14
Benfica (Por) 1 (Cardozo 24)
Manchester United (Eng) 1 (Giggs 42)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 63,822. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Benfica: Artur - Pereira, Luisao, Garay, Emerson, Javi Garcia, Witsel, Ruben Amorim (Nolito 56), Aimar (Matic 75), Gaitan (Bruno Cesar 90+1), Cardozo.
Man United: Lindegaard - Fabio (Jones 78), Smalling, Evans, Evra, Fletcher (Hernandez 69), Carrick, Giggs, Valencia (Nani 69), Park, Rooney.

Sep 27
Manchester United 3 (Welbeck 16, 17, Young 90)
Basle 3 (F Frei 58, A Frei 61, pen 76)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 73,115. **Ref:** Tagliavento (Ita)
Man United: De Gea - Fabio (Nani 69), Ferdinand, Jones, Evra, Valencia, Anderson (Berbatov 82), Carrick, Young, Giggs (Park 61), Welbeck.
Basle: Sommer - Steinhofer, Abraham, Dragovic, Park, F Frei (Chipperfield 77), Cabral, Zoua, G Xhaka, A Frei (T Xhaka 89), Streller (Pak 81).

Sep 27
Otelul Galati 0
Benfica 1 (Bruno Cesar 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,824. **Ref:** Fernandez Borbalan (Spa)
Otelul: Grahovac - Skubic, Perendija, Costin, Ljubinkovic, Filip, Giurgiu, Antal, Ibeh (Viglianti 46), Bus (Frunza 65), Pena (Punosevac 69).
Benfica: Artur - Pereira, Garay, Luisao, Emerson, Witsel, Javi Garcia, Gaitan (Rodrigo 77), Bruno Cesar (Ruben Amorim 82), Cardozo, Saviola (Nolito 63).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Benfica	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Man United	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Otelul	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group D

Sep 14
Ajax (Hol) 0
Lyon (Fra) 0
Att: 49,504. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Ajax: Vermeer - Van der Wiel, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Boilesen, Janssen (Anita 70), De Jong, Eriksen, Sulejmani (Ebecilio 85), Sigthorsson (Bulykin 81), Boerrigter.
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Lovren, Kone, Cissokho, Grenier, Gonalons (Fofana 90), Kallstrom, Briand, Gomis (Belfodil 85), Michel Bastos.

Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0
Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Di Maria 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,055. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Dinamo: Kelava - Tomecak, Tonel, Vida, Ibanez, Leko, Badelj, Calello (Situm 87), Kovacic (Pokrivac 63), Sammir, Rukavina (Beqiraj 75).
Real Madrid: Casillas - Sergio Ramos, Pepe, Ricardo Carvalho, Marcelo, Xabi Alonso, Fabio Coentrao, Di Maria (Diarra 78), Ozil (Higuain 78), Cristiano Ronaldo, Benzema (Arbeloa 82). *Sent off: Marcelo 73min.*

Sep 27
Lyon 2 (Gomis 23, Kone 42)
Dinamo Zagreb 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 34,432. **Ref:** Kralovec (Cze)
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Kone, Lovren, Cissokho, Gonalons, Kallstrom, Briand, Grenier (Pied 79), Michel Bastos, Gomis (Lacazette 63).
Dinamo: Kelava - Leko, Vida, Tonel, Ibanez, Calello, Pokrivac (Rukavina 74), Badelj (Tomecak 46), Sammir, Kovacic (Simunic 46), Beqiraj.

Sep 27
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 25, Kaka 41, Benzema 49)
Ajax 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,320. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Sergio Ramos, Varane, Ricardo Carvalho, Arbeloa, Xabi Alonso, Khedira, Cristiano Ronaldo, Ozil (Altintop 84), Kaka (Di Maria 75), Benzema (Higuain 75).
Ajax: Vermeer - Van der Wiel, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Anita, Janssen (Enoh 51), De Jong, Eriksen, Sulejmani (Ebecilio 71), Sigthorsson, Boerrigter (Serero 83).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Lyon	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Ajax	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
Dinamo Zagreb	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group E

Sep 13
Chelsea (Eng) 2 (David Luiz 67, Mata 90+2)
Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,820. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Chelsea: Cech - Bosingwa, Ivanovic, David Luiz (Alex 76), Cole, Mikel, Raul Meireles (Lampard 64), Malouda, Sturridge (Anelka 64), Mata, Fernando Torres.
Leverkusen: Leno - Castro, Reinartz, Toprak, Kadlec, Bender (Balitsch 80), Rolfes, Ballack (Renato Augusto 66), Sam (Derdiyok 73), Schurrle, Kiessling.

Sep 13
Genk (Bel) 0
Valencia (Spa) 0
Att: 20,248. **Ref:** Einwaller (Aut)
Genk: Koteles - Ngcongca, Simaeys, Nadson, Pudil, Ndabashinze, Hubert, Tozser, Buffel (Camus 85), Nwanganga (Ogunjimi 64), Vossen (Barda 80).
Valencia: Diego Alves - Miguel, Rami, Victor Ruiz, Mathieu, Mehmet, Banega, Feghouli (Pablo 69), Parejo (Aduriz 74), Piatti (Canales 79), Soldado.

Sep 28
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bender 30, Ballack 90+2)
Genk 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,138. **Ref:** Kelly (Rlr)
Leverkusen: Leno - Castro, Reinartz, Toprak, Kadlec (Ballack 80), Bender, Rolfes, Sam, Renato Augusto (Balitsch 65), Schurrle, Kiessling (Derdiyok 90+3).
Genk: Koteles - Ngcongca, Simaeys, Nadson (Hyland 69), Pudil, Hubert (Nwanganga 78), Tozser, Buffel, De Bruyne, Vossen (Barda 46), Ogunjimi.

Sep 28
Valencia 1 (Soldado pen 87)
Chelsea 1 (Lampard 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,791. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Valencia: Diego Alves - Miguel, Rami, Victor Ruiz, Jordi Alba, Albelda, Banega (Jonas 73), Pablo (Feghouli 73), Canales, Mathieu (Piatti 59), Soldado.
Chelsea: Cech - Bosingwa, David Luiz, Terry, Cole, Ramires (Raul Meireles 66), Mikel, Lampard (Kalou 83), Mata, Fernando Torres (Anelka 72), Malouda.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Valencia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Genk	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

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BOSNIA

Game abandoned

The league game between Borac and Zeljeznicar was abandoned when home fans invaded the pitch after Zeljeznicar's Eldar Adilovic had given the visitors a 28th-minute lead.

Zeljeznicar were later awarded a 3-0 victory and are currently third in the table – two points behind Sarajevo and five adrift of Siroki Brijeg.

BULGARIA

Loko lose coach

Dian Petkov left four-times champions Lokomotiv Sofia after they lost 4-0 away to city rivals Levski. Lokomotiv players, who claim they are owed cash bonuses by the club, protested before the derby game by training with the pockets pulled out of their tracksuits to symbolise the club's lack of money.

CYPRUS

APOEL lead group

Two goals in two minutes – from Brazilian pair Gustavo Manduca and Ailton – earned APOEL Nicosia their first-ever Champions League group-stage victory as they came from behind to beat Zenit 2-1. Ivan Trickovski's goal then gave Ivan Jovanovic's side a 1-1 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk to leave APOEL top of Group G after two matches.

Brazilian influence...Ailton (left)

ENGLAND

Reds march on

Manchester United beat Norwich City 2-0 at Old Trafford to set a new club

Group F

Sep 13
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Perisic 88)
Arsenal (Eng) 1 (Van Persie 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 65,590. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels, Schmelzer, Bender, Kehl (Blaszczykowski 69), Gotze, Kagawa (Zidan 85), Grosskreutz (Perisic 69), Lewandowski.
Arsenal: Szczesny - Sagna, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Gibbs, Song, Benayoun, Arteta, Walcott (Frimpong 76), Gervinho (Andre Santos 86), Van Persie (Chamakh 86).

Sep 13
Olympiakos (Gre) 0
Marseille (Fra) 1 (Gonzalez 51)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,040. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
Olympiakos: Costanzo - Torosidis, Mellberg, Papadopoulos, Holebas, Abdoun, Modesto, Fejsa (Makoun 67), Yeste (Djebbour 55), David Fuster (Ibagaza 67), Mirallas.
Marseille: Mandanda - Azpilicueta, Diawara, Nkoulou, Traore, Diarra, Cheyrou (Fanni 82), Amalfitano, Gonzalez (Kabore 77), Morel, Remy (J Ayew 68). *Sent off: Fanni 90+1min.*

Sep 28
Arsenal 2 (Oxlade-Chamberlain 8, Andre Santos 20)
Olympiakos 1 (David Fuster 27)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 59,676. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Arsenal: Szczesny - Sagna, Mertesacker, Song, Andre Santos, Frimpong, Arteta, Rosicky, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Ramsey 68), Chamakh (Van Persie 71), Arshavin (Gibbs 83).
Olympiakos: Costanzo - Torosidis, Mellberg, Marcano, Holebas, Orbaiz (Modesto 75), Fejsa, Ibagaza, David Fuster (Pantelic 80), Djebbour, Mirallas (Abdoun 75).

Sep 28
Marseille 3 (A Ayew 20, pen 69, Remy 62)
Borussia Dortmund 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,142. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Marseille: Mandanda - Azpilicueta, Diawara, Nkoulou, Morel, Diarra, Valbuena, Gonzalez (Amalfitano 73), Kabore, A Ayew (Sabo 89), Remy (J Ayew 71). *Sent off: J Ayew 90+3min.*
Dortmund: Weidenfeller - Piszczek, Subotic, Hummels, Schmelzer, Bender, Kehl, Gotze, Kagawa (Blaszczykowski 63), Grosskreutz (Perisic 63), Lewandowski (Barrios 72).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Arsenal	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Dortmund	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Olympiakos	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group G

Sep 13
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 2 (Manduca 73, Ailton 75)
Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 1 (Zyryanov 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,269. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
APOEL: Chiotis - Poursaitidis (Solomou 74), Paulo Jorge, Marcelo Oliveira, Boaventura, Helio Pinto, Nuno Morais, Trickovski, Marcinho (Jahic 64), Manduca (Alexandrou 89), Ailton.
Zenit: Malafeev - Anyukov, Hubocan (Bukharov 89), Bruno Alves, Lombaerts, Criscito, Denisov, Shirokov (Fayzulin 75), Zyryanov (Lazovic 80), Danny, Kerzhakov. *Sent off: Bruno Alves 76min.*

Sep 13
Porto (Por) 2 (Hulk 28, Kleber 51)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1 (Luiz Adriano 12)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 36,612. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Porto: Helton - Fucile, Otamendi, Maicon, Pereira, Defour, Fernando (Belluschi 61), Joao Moutinho, Hulk (Silvestre Varela 78), Kleber (Djalma 69), Rodriguez.
Shakhtar: Rybka - Srna, Chygrynskyi, Rakitskyi, Rat, Fernandinho, Mkhitaryan, Eduardo (Kucher 42), Jadson (Alex Teixeira 64), Willian (Hubschman 81), Luiz Adriano. *Sent off: Rakytskyi 40min, Chygrynskyi 80min.*

Sep 28
Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Jadson 64)
APOEL Nicosia 1 (Trickovski 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,014. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Shakhtar: Rybka - Srna, Kucher, Chyzhov, Rat, Hubschman, Mkhitaryan, Alex Teixeira (Douglas Costa 65), Jadson (Eduardo 81), Willian, Luiz Adriano (Selezniov 76).
APOEL: Chiotis - Poursaitidis, Boaventura, Marcelo Oliveira, Paulo Jorge, Jahic (Marcinho 58), Nuno Morais, Trickovski, Helio Pinto, Manduca (Charalambidis 7), Ailton (Solari 77).

Sep 28
Zenit St Petersburg 3 (Shirokov 20, 63, Danny 72)
Porto 1 (Rodriguez 10)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 21,405. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Zenit: Malafeev - Anyukov, Lombaerts, Hubocan, Criscito, Denisov, Shirokov, Fayzulin, Zyryanov (Huszti 86), Danny, Kerzhakov (Bukharov 90).
Porto: Helton - Fucile, Otamendi, Rolando, Pereira, Belluschi (Defour 72), Fernando, Joao Moutinho, Hulk, Kleber (Silvestre Varela 33), Rodriguez (Souza 46). *Sent off: Fucile 45+2min.*

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APOEL	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Zenit	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Porto	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Shakhtar	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group H

Sep 13
Barcelona (Spa) 2 (Pedro 36, Villa 50)
Milan (Ita) 2 (Alexandre Pato 1, Thiago Silva 90+2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 89,861. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Busquets, Mascherano, Abidal, Xavi, Keita (Puyol 67), Iniesta (Fabregas 39), Villa (Afellay 84), Messi, Pedro.
Milan: Abbiati - Abate, Nesta, Thiago Silva, Zambrotta, Nocerino, Van Bommel (Aquilani 78), Boateng (Ambrosini 33), Seedorf, Cassano (Emanuelson 62), Alexandre Pato.

Sep 13
Viktoria Plzen (Cze) 1 (Bakos 45+1)
BATE Borisov (Bls) 1 (Bressan 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 19,541. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)
Plzen: Cech - Rajtoral, Cisovsky, Bystron, Limbersky (Trapp 78), Horvath, Jiracek, Petrzela (Duris 69), Kolar, Pilar (Hora 88), Bakos.
BATE: Gutor - Baga, Filipenko, Simic, Bordachev, Olekhnovich, Rudik, A Volodko, Bressan (Kontsevoy 72), Gordeychuk (M Volodko 83), Kezman (Alex Porfirio 76).

Sep 28
BATE Borisov 0
Barcelona 5 (A Volodko og 19, Pedro 22, Messi 38, 56, Villa 90)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 29,555. **Ref:** Grafe (Ger)
BATE: Gutor - A Volodko, Simic, Filipenko, Bordachev, Olekhnovich, Rudik (Aleksiyan 60), Kontsevoy, Baga, Bressan (Kurlovich 82), Kezman (Skavysh 56).
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Mascherano, Puyol, Abidal (Adriano 61), Thiago, Xavi (Fabregas 60), Keita, Pedro (Maxwell 69), Messi, Villa.

Sep 28
Milan 2 (Ibrahimovic pen 53, Cassano 66)
Viktoria Plzen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 66,859. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Milan: Abbiati - Abate (De Sciglio 87), Nesta, Thiago Silva, Antonini (Taiwo 78), Nocerino, Van Bommel, Seedorf (Aquilani 71), Emanuelson, Cassano, Ibrahimovic.
Plzen: Cech - Rajtoral, Cisovsky, Bystron, Limbersky, Jiracek, Horvath, Pilar (Fillo 75), Kolar (Darida 90+1), Petrzela, Bakos (Duris 67).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	7	2	4
BATE	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
Plzen	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; 3rd-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 15: PAOK Salonika (Gre) 0 Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 0; Shamrock Rovers (Rlr) 0 Rubin Kazan (Rus) 3.
Sep 29: Rubin Kazan 2 PAOK Salonika 2; Tottenham Hotspur 3 Shamrock Rovers 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rubin Kazan	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Tottenham	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
PAOK	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Shamrock	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group B

Sep 15: Copenhagen (Den) 1 Vorskla Poltava (Ukr) 0; Hanover (Ger) 0 Standard Liege (Blg) 0.
Sep 29: Standard 3 Copenhagen 0; Vorskla 1 Hanover 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Hanover	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Copenhagen	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Vorskla	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group C

Sep 15: Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 0 Rapid Bucharest (Rom) 1; PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 1 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 0.
Sep 29: Legia Warsaw 3 Hapoel Tel Aviv 2; Rapid Bucharest 1 PSV Eindhoven 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Legia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Rapid Buch'st	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
H Tel Aviv	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Group D

Sep 15: Lazio (Ita) 2 Vaslui (Rom) 2; Zurich (Swi) 0 Sporting Lisbon (Por) 2.
Sep 29: Sporting Lisbon 2 Lazio 1; Vaslui 2 Zurich 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting L'bon	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Vaslui	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Lazio	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Zurich	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group E

Sep 15: Besiktas (Tur) 5 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 1; Dynamo Kiev (Ukr) 1 Stoke City (Eng) 1.
Sep 29: Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 Dynamo Kiev 1; Stoke City 2 Besiktas 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stoke	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Besiktas	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
M Tel Aviv	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

Group F

Sep 15: Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 3 Salzburg (Aut) 1; Slovan Bratislava (Slk) 1 Athletic Bilbao (Spa) 2.
Sep 29: Athletic Bilbao 2 Paris Saint-Germain 0; Salzburg 3 Slovan Bratislava 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletic B'bao	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
PSG	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Salzburg	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Slovan B'slava	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group G

Sep 15: Austria Vienna (Aut) 1 Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr) 2; AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 4 Malmo (Swe) 1.
Sep 29: Malmo 1 Austria Vienna 2; Metalist Kharkiv 1 AZ Alkmaar 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AZ	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Metalist	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Austria	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Malmo	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Group H

Sep 15: Birmingham City (Eng) 1 Braga (Por) 3; Club Brugge (Blg) 2 Maribor (Sln) 0.
Sep 29: Braga 1 Club Brugge 2; Maribor 1 Birmingham City 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Braga	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Birmingham	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Maribor	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group I

Sep 15: Atletico Madrid (Spa) 2 Celtic (Sco) 0; Udinese (Ita) 2 Rennes (Fra) 1.
Sep 29: Celtic 1 Udinese 1; Rennes 1 Atletico Madrid 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico M'rid	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Udinese	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Rennes	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Celtic	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group J

Sep 15: Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 1 AEK Larnaca (Cyp) 0; Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 0 Schalke (Ger) 0.
Sep 29: AEK Larnaca 1 Steaua Bucharest 1; Schalke 3 Maccabi Haifa 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Schalke	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
M Haifa	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Steaua	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
AEK Larnaca	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

record of 19 consecutive home league wins and remain ahead of rivals Manchester City at the top of the Premier League table on goal difference.

Two weeks earlier, United beat Chelsea 3-1 in an eventful match at Old Trafford with goals from Chris Smalling, Wayne Rooney and Nani. Rooney's goal was his fifth in as many league games.

The loss to United was Chelsea boss Andre Villas-Boas' first league defeat since April 2010, when his Academica side went down to Benfica.

Kolo Toure made his first appearance since serving a six-month ban for taking a prohibited substance, playing for Manchester City in their 2-0 victory over holders Birmingham City in the League Cup. City's

United front...Danny Welbeck

first goal was scored by Owen Hargreaves, the England midfielder released by Manchester United this summer after just six minutes of first-team football in three years.

Arsenal's worst start to a league season for 58 years continued with a 2-1 away defeat by Tottenham in the North London derby.

Arsenal's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain became the youngest Englishman, at 18 years and 44 days, to score in the Champions League with his goal in the 2-1 win over Olympiakos. Arsenal had 11 different nationalities in their starting line-up against the Greek side.

Peter Crouch's goal for Stoke City against Manchester United means he has now scored for six different clubs in the Premier League.

Group K

Sep 15: Fulham (Eng) 1 Twente Enschede (Hol) 1; Wisla Krakow (Pol) 1 OB Odense (Den) 3.
Sep 29: OB Odense 0 Fulham 2; Twente Enschede 4 Wisla Krakow 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Twente	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Fulham	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
OB	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Wisla	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

Group L

Sep 15: Anderlecht (Blg) 4 AEK Athens (Gre) 1; Sturm Graz (Aut) 1 Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 2.
Sep 29: AEK Athens 1 Sturm Graz 2; Lokomotiv Moscow 0 Anderlecht 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Lokomotiv M	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Sturm	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
AEK Athens	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Top 2 in each group qualify for 1st knockout round, where they will be joined by the 8 3rd-placed teams from the Champions League group stage

AUSTRIA

Sep 17: Ried 1 Admira 1; Rapid 5 Kapfenberger 1.
Sep 18: Salzburg 3 Wiener Neustadt 0; Sturm 1 Wacker 1; Mattersburg 2 Austria 4.
Sep 24: Wacker 0 Rapid 3; Wiener Neustadt 2 Ried 2; Austria 2 Sturm 1; Kapfenberger 1 Mattersburg 0.
Sep 25: Admira 2 Salzburg 1.
Oct 1: Wacker 3 Kapfenberger 1; Wiener Neustadt 1 Mattersburg 2; Admira 4 Rapid 3.
Oct 2: Austria 3 Salzburg 2; Sturm 1 Ried 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Admira	10	6	3	1	23	15	21
Austria	10	6	2	2	22	13	20
Salzburg	10	5	3	2	16	8	18
Rapid	10	4	3	3	16	10	15
Ried	10	3	4	3	15	12	13
Sturm	10	3	4	3	15	14	13
Wacker	10	2	5	3	10	16	11
W Neustadt	10	2	3	5	8	19	9
Mattersburg	10	1	4	5	12	17	7
Kapfenberger	10	2	1	7	10	23	7

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season

Sep 17: Beerschot 2 Zulte Waregem 0; Kortrijk 2 OH Leuven 0; Mons 5 Mechelen 1; Westerlo 2 St Truiden 0; Cercle Brugge 0 Lierse 0.
Sep 18: Gent 0 Anderlecht 1; Genk 3 Standard 0; Lokeren 1 Club Brugge 2.
Sep 24: Mechelen 0 Lokeren 2; Club Brugge 2 Mons 1; St Truiden 3 Gent 4; Zulte Waregem 1 Kortrijk 0; OH Leuven 1 Genk 1; Lierse 0 Westerlo 0.
Sep 25: Anderlecht 3 Beerschot 2; Standard 0 Cercle Brugge 0.
Oct 1: Gent 6 OH Leuven 1; Kortrijk 1 Mechelen 0; Mons 3 Lokeren 3; Westerlo 1 Zulte Waregem 1; Cercle Brugge 2 St Truiden 2.
Oct 2: Standard 2 Lierse 0; Beerschot 1 Club Brugge 1; Genk 0 Anderlecht 1.

BELGIUM – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	9	6	2	1	15	8	20
Gent	9	6	1	2	22	12	19
Club Brugge	9	5	4	0	18	9	19
Cercle Brugge	9	4	4	1	12	9	16
Standard	9	4	3	2	12	10	15
Kortrijk	9	4	2	3	11	7	14
Mons	9	3	4	2	21	16	13
Genk	9	3	4	2	15	11	13
Beerschot	9	2	4	3	14	14	10
Z Waregem	9	2	4	3	9	13	10
OH Leuven	9	3	1	5	10	16	10
Mechelen	9	3	1	5	9	16	10
Lokeren	9	2	3	4	10	11	9
Lierse	9	0	6	3	4	8	6
Westerlo	9	1	3	5	7	16	6
St Truiden	9	0	2	7	14	27	2

30-round regular season (15x2); top 6 enter championship play-offs, teams placed 7th to 14th enter Europa League place play-offs, bottom 2 (15th & 16th) enter relegation play-off (1 of them will go down)

BULGARIA

Sep 16: Vidima-Rakovski 1 Kaliakra 0.
Sep 17: Beroe 0 CSKA 1; Montana 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Svetkavitsa 0 Chernomorets 3; Levski 3 Lovech 2.
Sep 18: Slavia 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Cherno More 0 Ludogorets 1.
Sep 19: Botev 0 Minyor 0.
Sep 23: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Beroe 2.
Sep 24: Minyor 3 Montana 1; Lovech 3 Botev 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Cherno More 0.
Sep 25: Ludogorets 2 Levski 1; Chernomorets 2 Slavia 3.
Sep 26: Kaliakra 1 Svetkavitsa 1; CSKA 4 Vidima-Rakovski 1.
Sep 30: Botev 0 Ludogorets 1.
Oct 1: Montana 0 Beroe 0; Vidima-Rakovski 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3; Cherno More 0 Chernomorets 2; Minyor 2 Lovech 2.
Oct 2: Svetkavitsa 0 CSKA 3; Levski 4 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Oct 3: Slavia 3 Kaliakra 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	8	8	0	0	21	3	24
Ludogorets	8	7	1	0	17	2	22
Chernomorets	8	6	0	2	16	5	18
Levski	8	6	0	2	15	7	18
Lovech	8	5	2	1	19	8	17
Lok Plovdiv	8	4	2	2	13	10	14
Cherno More	8	4	1	3	8	5	13
Slavia	8	4	1	3	12	15	13
Minyor	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Lok Sofia	8	2	2	4	12	13	8
Montana	8	2	2	4	9	16	8
V-Rakovski	8	1	2	5	5	19	5
Kaliakra	8	1	1	6	6	13	4
Botev	8	1	1	6	6	15	4
Beroe	8	0	1	7	6	17	1
Svetkavitsa	8	0	1	7	2	22	1

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

CROATIA

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	10	9	1	0	28	3	28
Hajduk	10	6	3	1	20	7	21
Split	10	6	3	1	18	11	21
Osijek	10	5	3	2	14	11	18
Inter	10	5	2	3	11	8	17
Slaven	10	5	2	3	15	13	17
Zagreb	10	5	1	4	11	14	16
Rijeka	10	3	4	3	11	10	13
Zadar	10	3	4	3	12	16	13
Cibalia	10	4	1	5	8	13	13
Lokomotiva	10	3	2	5	12	10	11
Istra	10	2	5	3	9	11	11
Karlovac	10	2	2	6	8	20	8
Lucko	10	1	3	6	6	12	6
Sibenik	10	1	3	6	6	13	6
Varazdin	10	0	1	9	4	21	1

Standings on Oct 7
30-round season (15x2); bottom 5 will be relegated

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 16: Slavia 0 Dukla 0.
Sep 17: Liberec 1 Olomouc 1; Slovacko 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Plzen 4 Jablonec 2.
Sep 18: Zizkov 0 Teplice 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Bohemians 1905 0; Pribram 2 Mlada Boleslav 0.
Sep 19: Ostrava 0 Sparta 2.
Sep 23: Dukla 2 Pribram 1; C Budejovice 0 Plzen 0.
Sep 24: Olomouc 1 Teplice 0; Ostrava 0 Slovacko 1.
Sep 25: Jablonec 3 Zizkov 1; Mlada Boleslav 1 Hradec Kralove 1; Bohemians 1905 1 Liberec 1.
Sep 26: Sparta 3 Slavia 0.
Oct 1: Pribram 0 Sparta 3; Liberec 1 Dukla 2; Zizkov 0 Bohemians 1905 1.
Oct 2: Slavia 1 Olomouc 0; Plzen 1 Ostrava 1; Hradec Kralove 0 Ceske Budejovice 0; Teplice 1 Mlada Boleslav 3.
Oct 3: Slovacko 1 Jablonec 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	9	9	0	0	23	4	27
Boh'ians 1905	9	5	2	2	10	11	17
Jablonec	9	5	1	3	24	9	16
Liberec	9	4	3	2	17	12	15
Plzen	9	4	3	2	17	13	15
M Boleslav	9	4	3	2	13	10	15
Dukla	9	4	2	3	14	10	14
Slovacko	9	4	2	3	9	8	14
Olomouc*	9	3	4	2	12	9	13
Teplice	9	4	1	4	10	13	13
Pribram	9	4	0	5	13	16	12
H Kralove	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Slavia	9	2	3	4	6	13	9
Zizkov	9	1	1	7	6	16	4
C Budejovice	9	0	3	6	7	19	3
Ostrava	9	0	2	7	5	20	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated
**Federation repealed 9pt deduction for alleged match-fixing*

DENMARK

Sep 17: HB Koge 0 AGF 2.
Sep 18: Midtjylland 2 SonderjyskE 0; Lyngby 0 Silkeborg 2; Nordsjaelland 2 Brondby 0; Copenhagen 2 AaB 0.
Sep 19: Horsens 4 OB 3.
Sep 24: Brondby 1 Copenhagen 2; AGF 1 Nordsjaelland 0.
Sep 25: Silkeborg 1 Horsens 1; SonderjyskE 0 HB Koge 0; OB 1 Midtjylland 4.
Sep 26: AaB 1 Lyngby 2.
Oct 1: Silkeborg 1 AaB 1.
Oct 2: OB 2 HB Koge 1; Brondby 1 Lyngby 0; Nordsjaelland 1 SonderjyskE 0; Copenhagen 1 AGF 1.
Oct 3: Midtjylland 1 Horsens 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhagen	11	9	2	0	21	7	29
Midtjylland	11	7	0	4	19	15	21
AGF	11	5	4	2	18	12	19
Nordsjaelland	11	6	1	4	15	10	19
OB	11	5	2	4	23	22	17
Horsens	11	4	4	3	20	16	16
AaB	11	4	4	3	17	15	16
SonderjyskE	11	3	4	4	12	14	13
Brondby	11	3	3	5	15	16	12
Silkeborg	11	2	4	5	11	16	10
Lyngby	11	2	1	8	9	19	7
HB Koge	11	1	1	9	10	28	4

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 17

Aston Villa 1 (Agbonlahor 13)
Newcastle 1 (Best 56) Att: 34,248

Blackburn 4 (Yakubu 24, 58, Song og 49, Koscielny og 68)
Arsenal 3 (Gervinho 9, Arteta 34, Chamakh 85) Att: 22,637

Bolton 1 (Petrov pen 63)
Norwich 2 (Pilkington 36, Johnson 41) Att: 21,223

Everton 3 (Jagielka 33, Vellios 84, Drenthe 90+8)
Wigan 1 (Di Santo 31) Att: 31,576

Swansea 3 (Sinclair pen 13, Lita 24, Dyer 49)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 20,341

Wolverhampton 0
Queens Park Rangers 3 (Barton 8, Faurlin 10, Campbell 87) Att: 24,189

Sunday, September 18

Fulham 2 (Zamora 54, Murphy 75)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 17, 46) Att: 24,750

Manchester United 3 (Smalling 8, Nani 37, Rooney 44)
Chelsea 1 (Fernando Torres 46) Att: 75,455

Sunderland 4 (Bramble 5, Woodgate og 11, Gardner 27, Larsson 57)
Stoke 0 Att: 32,296

Tottenham 4 (Modric 7, Defoe 66, Adebayor 67, 90+2)
Liverpool 0 Att: 36,129

Saturday, September 24

Arsenal 3 (Van Persie 46, 70, Song 89)
Bolton 0 Att: 59,727

Chelsea 4 (Fernando Torres 28, Ramires 36, 75, Drogba 90+2)
Swansea 1 (Williams 85) Att: 41,800

Liverpool 2 (Johnson og 10, Suarez 38)
Wolverhampton 1 (Fletcher 49) Att: 44,922

Manchester City 2 (Balotelli 68, Milner 89)
Everton 0 Att: 47,293

Newcastle 3 (Ba 27, 29, 53)
Blackburn 1 (Hoilett 36) Att: 46,236

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FINLAND

HJK do the double

Jari Litmanen won his first Finnish championship at the age of 40 as HJK Helsinki secured their 24th national title with a 2-0 win at IFK Mariehamn. Litmanen was on target the previous month, along with Alexander Ring, as HJK beat KuPS Kuopio 2-1 in the Finnish Cup Final.

HOLLAND

Janko equals record

Austria striker Marc Janko equalled the Twente club record by scoring in the first six Eredivise games.

The 28-year-old's goal in the 5-2 victory against Den Haag matched the feat of Dick Van Dijk, who scored in the Enschede club's first six matches of the 1968-69 season.

Sharp start to season...Janko

ICELAND

KR take the title

KR Reykjavik sealed their 25th Icelandic league championship with a 3-2 win at home to Fylkir, with coach Runar Kristinsson leading his side to the domestic double in his first full season in charge.

Meanwhile, city rivals Vikingur returned to the second division a year after promotion to the top flight. FH and IBV have qualified for nest season's Europa League, along with Thor, who were relegated.

ITALY

Inter's great servant

Javier Zanetti set a new club record when he made his 757th appearance for Internazionale, against Novara. But, unfortunately

Stoke 1 (Crouch 51)
Manchester United 1 (Nani 26) Att: 27,582

West Bromwich 0
Fulham 0 Att: 23,835

Wigan 1 (Diame 50)
Tottenham 2 (Van der Vaart 3, Bale 22) Att: 18,788

Sunday, September 25
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Dunne og 90+3)
Aston Villa 1 (Bannan pen 58) Att: 16,707

Monday, September 26
Norwich 2 (Barnett 31, Morison 47)
Sunderland 1 (Richardson 86) Att: 26,107

Saturday, October 1
Aston Villa 2 (Agbonlahor 35, Bent 62)
Wigan 0 Att: 30,744

Blackburn 0
Manchester City 4 (Johnson 55, Balotelli 58, Nasri 72, Savic 87) Att: 24,760

Everton 0
Liverpool 2 (Carroll 70, Suarez 82) Att: 39,510

Manchester United 2 (Anderson 67, Welbeck 86)
Norwich 0 Att: 75,514

Sunderland 2 (Bendtner 23, Elmohamady 25)
West Bromwich 2 (Morrison 4, Long 5) Att: 34,815

Wolverhampton 1 (Fletcher 88)
Newcastle 2 (Ba 17, Gutierrez 38) Att: 26,561

Sunday, October 2
Bolton 1 (Boyata 46)
Chelsea 5 (Sturridge 2, 24, Lampard 14, 26, 59) Att: 24,657

Fulham 6 (Johnson 2, 38, 58, Murphy pen 20, Dempsey 65, Zamora 74)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 23,766

Swansea 2 (Sinclair pen 9, Graham 85)
Stoke 0 Att: 19,523

Tottenham 2 (Van der Vaart 40, Walker 73)
Arsenal 1 (Ramsey 50) Att: 36,274

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	7	6	1	0	24	5	19
Man City	7	6	1	0	23	5	19
Chelsea	7	5	1	1	17	8	16
Newcastle	7	4	3	0	9	4	15
Liverpool	7	4	1	2	10	8	13
Tottenham	6	4	0	2	11	10	12
Aston Villa	7	2	5	0	9	5	11
Stoke	7	2	3	2	4	8	9
Norwich	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Swansea	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
QPR	7	2	2	3	5	13	8
Fulham	7	1	4	2	10	7	7
Everton	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Wolves	7	2	1	4	6	10	7
Arsenal	7	2	1	4	10	16	7
Sunderland	7	1	3	3	9	8	6
West Brom	7	1	2	4	5	10	5
Wigan	7	1	2	4	5	11	5
Blackburn	7	1	1	5	8	17	4
Bolton	7	1	0	6	9	21	3

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers
9 Wayne Rooney (Manchester United)
8 Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)
6 Edin Dzeko (Manchester City)

FRANCE

Saturday, September 17
Auxerre 1 (Jemaa 31)
Caen 1 (Nivet 45) Att: 8,962

Brest 2 (Ben Basat 69, Gentiletti 87)
Montpellier 2 (Giroud 18, 40) Att: 13,000

Lille 2 (Pedretti 48, Hazard pen 78)
Sochaux 2 (Bakambu 70, Privat 86) Att: 16,776

Lorient 3 (Aliadiere 10, 75, Coutadeur 90+3)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 14,841

Nice 3 (Monzon pen 45+3, pen 86, Civelli 89)
Ajaccio 0 Att: 8,242

Toulouse 3 (Tabanou 52, Capoue 59, Riviere 90+2)
Bordeaux 2 (Diabate 18, 38) Att: 15,353

Valenciennes 4 (Danic 52, Pujol 75, 78, Cohade 79)
Dijon 0 Att: 13,961

Sunday, September 18
Evian 2 (Leroy 14, Sagbo pen 19)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Pastore 42, Bodmer 80) Att: 15,162

Lyon 2 (Gomis 17, Michel Bastos 28)
Marseille 0 Att: 38,010

Rennes 1 (Montano 18)
Nancy 1 (Andre Luiz pen 77) Att: 15,509

Tuesday, September 20
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate pen 7)
Lille 1 (Hazard 56) Att: 17,927

Wednesday, September 21
Ajaccio 1 (Mostefa 52)
Montpellier 3 (Cabella 3, Estrada 8, Utaka 35) Att: 5,670

Caen 1 (Nivet pen 45+2)
Lyon 0 Att: 16,654

Dijon 1 (Mandanne pen 33)
Brest 0 Att: 12,436

Lorient 1 (Emeghara 22)
Auxerre 1 (Oliech 62) Att: 15,661

Marseille 2 (Remy 25, 73)
Evian 0 Att: 39,357

Nancy 1 (Moukandjo 14)
Valenciennes 1 (Cohade 82) Att: 13,600

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Nene pen 35, Gameiro pen 70)
Nice 1 (Monzon pen 61) Att: 40,237

Saint-Etienne 1 (Paulao 89)
Toulouse 1 (Tabanou 11) Att: 18,088

Sochaux 2 (Butin 23, Maiga 40)
Rennes 6 (Montano pen 21, 70, Kana-Biyik 34, Feret 51, Hadji pen 69, Kembo 90+5) Att: 10,417

Saturday, September 24
Evian 2 (Barbosa 34, 38)
Caen 4 (Niang 10, Proment 45+4, Bulot 68, Traore 71) Att: 9,498

Lille 1 (Cole 33)
Lorient 1 (Monnet-Paquet 90+3) Att: 16,234

Lyon 3 (Gomis 7, 32, Michel Bastos 64)
Bordeaux 1 (Modeste pen 86) Att: 32,123

Montpellier 0
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Gameiro 39, Pastore 43, 80) Att: 24,842

Nice 1 (Dja Djedje 90)
Dijon 1 (Corgnet 14) Att: 8,152

Toulouse 1 (Umut 59)
Nancy 0 Att: 12,346

Valenciennes 1 (Saez 90+3)
Marseille 1 (Diawara 16) Att: 21,642

Sunday, September 25
Auxerre 4 (Traore 50, Oliech 51, 63, 67)
Sochaux 1 (Maiga 2) Att: 8,437

Brest 1 (Roux 61)
Ajaccio 1 (Socrier 66) Att: 12,142

Rennes 1 (Hadji 41)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Aubameyang 56) Att: 18,718

Saturday, October 1
Bordeaux 2 (Diabate 18, Ciani 50)
Montpellier 2 (Belhanda pen 88, Hilton 90) Att: 17,713

Caen 1 (Frau 79)
Nice 1 (Mouloungui 89) Att: 13,234

Dijon 1 (Bautheac 41)
Ajaccio 1 (Mostefa 18) Att: 12,534

Lorient 2 (Campbell 22, Jouffre 67)
Valenciennes 0 Att: 15,698

Nancy 1 (Karaboue 53)
Evian 1 (Mongongu pen 61) Att: 15,054

Saint-Etienne 1 (Guilavogui 38)
Auxerre 1 (Sahar 5) Att: 19,338

Sochaux 3 (Maiga 8, 86, Bakambu 88)
Toulouse 0 Att: 10,142

Sunday, October 2
Lille 2 (Sow 7, Balmont 31)
Rennes 0 Att: 16,802

Marseille 1 (A Ayew 18)
Brest 1 (Poyet 5) Att: 39,598

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Pastore 63, Jallet 89)
Lyon 0 Att: 44,450

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	9	6	2	1	16	7	20
Montpellier	9	5	2	2	17	11	17
Lyon	9	5	2	2	14	9	17
Toulouse	9	5	2	2	12	10	17
Lille	9	4	4	1	15	10	16
Lorient	9	4	4	1	12	7	16
Rennes	9	4	3	2	18	14	15
Caen	9	4	2	3	13	11	14
Auxerre	9	2	6	1	15	11	12
Sochaux	9	3	3	3	16	19	12
Dijon	9	3	2	4	8	15	11
Saint-Etienne	9	2	4	3	8	12	10
Marseille	9	1	5	3	10	12	8
Bordeaux	9	1	5	3	11	14	8
Evian	9	1	5	3	9	13	8
Nice	9	1	4	4	8	10	7
Brest	9	0	7	2	7	9	7
Ajaccio	9	1	4	4	9	17	7
Valenciennes	9	1	3	5	9	12	6
Nancy	9	0	5	4	6	10	5

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers
6 Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon)
6 Alain Traore (Auxerre)
5 Kevin Gameiro (PSG)
5 Javier Pastore (PSG)

GERMANY

Friday, September 16
Freiburg 1 (Cisse 84)
Stuttgart 2 (Harnik 31, 73) Att: 24,000

Saturday, September 17
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Rolfes 69)
Cologne 4 (Novakovic 43, Podolski 47, 53, Jajalo 90) Att: 30,210

Hamburg 0
Monchengladbach 1 (De Camargo 66) Att: 55,797

Hertha 2 (Lell 46, Tunay 57)
Augsburg 2 (Hosogai 20, Callsen-Bracker 64) Att: 48,385

1899 Hoffenheim 3 (Babel 20, Roberto Firmino 22, 84)
Wolfsburg 1 (Dejagah 66) Att: 26,580

Kaiserslautern 3 (Svensson og 24, Shechter 53, Tiffert 72)
Mainz 1 (Choupo-Moting 14) Att: 43,952

Nuremberg 1 (Wollscheid 61)
Werder Bremen 1 (Ekici 23) Att: 43,121

Sunday, September 18
Hanover 2 (Haggui 87, Ya Konan 89)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Kagawa 63) Att: 49,000

Schalke 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Petersen 20, Muller 75) Att: 61,673

Friday, September 23
Stuttgart 1 (Harnik 17)
Hamburg 2 (Bruma 51, Tesche 66) Att: 55,700

Saturday, September 24
Augsburg 0
Hanover 0 Att: 29,113

Bayern Munich 3 (Muller 5, Van Buyten 18, Robben 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 69,000

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Hat-trick hero...Cavani

for the 38-year-old, Inter lost 3-1 and coach Gian Piero Gasperini was sacked after losing four of his five games in charge. He is the only boss in Inter's history not to have won a game.

Edinson Cavani became the first player to score a Serie A hat-trick against Milan for 13 years. The Napoli striker scored his fourth hat-trick of 2011 in a 3-1 win and became the first player since Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina, in 1998, to score three goals against the San Siro club.

NORWAY

Sub has heart attack

Brann Bergen midfielder Carl-Erik Torp was airlifted to hospital after suffering a suspected heart attack after appearing as a sub in his side's 1-0 loss at Sogndal.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Derry's Cup success

A 66th-minute penalty by Eamon Zayed gave Derry City a 1-0 victory in the League Cup Final against Cork City. Unfortuantely, the victors had unused substitute Pat McEleney sent off in stoppage time for a comment that he made to fourth official Anthony Buttimer.

Spot on...Derry scorer Zayed

Mainz 1 (N Muller 33)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Perisic 63, Piszczek 89) Att: 34,000

Monchengladbach 1 (Daems pen 75)
Nuremberg 0 Att: 51,117

Schalke 4 (Farfan 32, Huntelaar 61, Holtby 67, Raul 75)
Freiburg 2 (Cisse 3, Jendrisek 82) Att: 60,545

Wolfsburg 1 (Dejagah 63)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 26,779

Sunday, September 25
Cologne 2 (Jajalo 20, Podolski 64)
1899 Hoffenheim 0 Att: 45,500

Werder Bremen 2 (Pizarro 23, 90+3)
Hertha 1 (Ramos 3) Att: 40,760

Friday, September 30
Kaiserslautern 0
Stuttgart 2 (Cacau 51, Boulahrouz 69) Att: 46,186

Saturday, October 1
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Castro 13, Derdiyok 65, Kiessling 85)
Wolfsburg 1 (Mandzukic 58) Att: 28,195

Borussia Dortmund 4 (Lewandowski 29, 43, 78, Gotze 75)
Augsburg 0 Att: 80,720

Freiburg 1 (Flum 18)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 24,000

Hertha 3 (Lasogga 13, 26, Raffael 33)
Cologne 0 Att: 59,491

1899 Hoffenheim 0
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 30,150

Nuremberg 3 (Feulner 5, Mak 19, Pekhart 82)
Mainz 3 (Bungert 32, Choupo-Moting 45, Ivanschitz 51) Att: 38,107

Sunday, October 2
Hamburg 1 (Petric 38)
Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 12, 72) Att: 54,237

Hanover 3 (Abellaoue pen 2, 37, 59)
Werder Bremen 2 (Arnautovic 45+3, Pizarro 83) Att: 49,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	8	6	1	1	21	1	19
Werder	8	5	1	2	16	10	16
M'gladbach	8	5	1	2	9	4	16
Schalke	8	5	0	3	17	13	15
Hanover	8	4	3	1	11	10	15
Dortmund	8	4	1	3	13	7	13
Stuttgart	8	4	1	3	12	6	13
Hoffenheim	8	4	1	3	12	7	13
Leverkusen	8	4	1	3	10	11	13
Hertha	8	3	3	2	12	9	12
Nuremberg	8	3	2	3	9	10	11
Cologne	8	3	1	4	13	18	10
Wolfsburg	8	3	0	5	9	15	9
Mainz	8	2	2	4	12	18	8
Freiburg	8	2	1	5	13	22	7
Kaiserslautern	8	1	2	5	5	12	5
Augsburg	8	0	4	4	6	16	4
Hamburg	8	1	1	6	9	20	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

Leading scorers
8 Mario Gomez (Bayern Munich)
7 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (Schalke)
6 Mohammed Abdellaoue (Hanover)
6 Papiss Demba Cisse (Freiburg)
6 Claudio Pizarro (Werder Bremen)

GREECE

Sep 14: Panetolikos 1 Asteras 0.
Sep 17: Kerkyra 2 Panetolikos 3; Atromitos 1 Panathinaikos 1.
Sep 18: Giannina 3 Asteras 1; AEK 1 Ergotelis 0; Panionios 1 PAOK 2; Olympiakos 2 Xanthi 1.
Sep 21: Xanthi 3 AEK 4.
Sep 24: Kerkyra 0 Panionios 3; Ergotelis 2 Olympiakos 3.
Sep 25: Asteras 0 Atromitos 0; Xanthi 3 OFI 1; Panetolikos 2 Giannina 2; PAOK 3 AEK 0.
Oct 1: Atromitos 2 Panetolikos 1; OFI 1 Ergotelis 0.
Oct 2: Aris 0 Xanthi 0; Giannina 2 Kerkyra 1; Panionios 0 AEK 1; Olympiakos 2 PAOK 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK	5	3	0	2	8	5	9
Olympiakos	3	3	0	0	7	4	9
Atromitos	5	2	3	0	5	3	9
AEK	4	3	0	1	6	6	9
Giannina	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Panathinaikos	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Panionios	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Panetolikos	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Xanthi	5	1	1	3	7	8	4
OFI	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Ergotelis	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Aris	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Asteras	4	0	2	2	1	4	2
Kerkyra	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

26-round season* (13x2); teams placed 2nd to 5th will enter play-offs to determine Greece's 2nd Champions League representatives; number of teams to be relegated to be confirmed. *At press time the authorities had yet to decide whether or not to include 2 more teams in the top division

HOLLAND

Sep 16: NEC 1 NAC 2.
Sep 17: Groningen 2 Excelsior 0; VVV 0 Heerenveen 3; Vitesse 5 Roda JC 0; Feyenoord 4 De Graafschap 0.
Sep 18: PSV 2 Ajax 2; RKC 1 AZ 2; Twente 5 Den Haag 2; Utrecht 2 Heracles 2.
Sep 24: PSV 7 Roda JC 1; Den Haag 2 VVV 0; Heerenveen 1 Heracles 1; NAC 1 Utrecht 0; Ajax 1 Twente 1.
Sep 25: AZ 2 Feyenoord 1; RKC 2 NEC 0; De Graafschap 2 Groningen 3; Excelsior 0 Vitesse 2.
Sep 30: Heracles 2 De Graafschap 0.
Oct 1: Utrecht 3 RKC 0; Vitesse 1 Heerenveen 1; Roda JC 4 NAC 3.
Oct 2: VVV 1 AZ 3; Twente 2 Excelsior 2; Groningen 1 Ajax 0; Feyenoord 0 Den Haag 3; NEC 0 PSV 2.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AZ	8	7	0	1	21	6	21
PSV	8	5	2	1	25	10	17
Twente	8	5	2	1	21	9	17
Ajax	8	4	3	1	21	11	15
Feyenoord	8	4	2	2	16	9	14
Vitesse	8	4	2	2	15	10	14
RKC	8	4	1	3	10	9	13
Groningen	8	4	1	3	13	14	13
Utrecht	8	3	3	2	14	10	12
Heracles	8	2	4	2	13	12	10
Den Haag	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Heerenveen	8	2	4	2	14	16	10
Roda JC	8	3	0	5	10	25	9
NAC	8	2	1	5	11	15	7
NEC	8	2	1	5	7	14	7
De Graafschap	8	1	2	5	7	19	5
VVV	8	0	3	5	7	21	3
Excelsior	8	0	2	6	6	20	2

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ITALY

Saturday, September 17
Cagliari 2 (Thiago Ribeiro 37, Larrivey 85)
Novara 1 (Morimoto 87) Att: 10,000

Internazionale 0
Roma 0 Att: 58,000

Sunday, September 18
Atalanta 1 (Denis 34)
Palermo 0 Att: 12,368

Bologna 0
Lecce 2 (Giacomazzi 37, Grossmuller 59) Att: 15,353

Catania 1 (Lopez pen 45+2)
Cesena 0 Att: 12,237

Lazio 1 (Sculli 10)
Genoa 2 (Palacio 54, Kucka 70) Att: 32,164

Napoli 3 (Cavani 12, 35, 50)
Milan 1 (Aquilani 11) Att: 60,000

Parma 2 (Giovinco 24, 90+1)
Chievo 1 (Paloschi 79) Att: 11,189

Siena 0
Juventus 1 (Matri 54) Att: 15,265

Udinese 2 (Di Natale pen 8, Isla 29)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 14,000

Tuesday, September 20
Novara 3 (Meggiorini 37, Rigoni pen 86, 90+1)
Internazionale 1 (Cambiasso 89) Att: 15,596

Wednesday, September 21
Cesena 1 (Mutu 14)
Lazio 2 (Hernanes pen 48, Klose 53) Att: 16,347

Chievo 1 (Moscardelli 71)
Napoli 0 Att: 9,000

Fiorentina 3 (Jovetic 46, 81, Cerci 60)
Parma 0 Att: 20,436

Genoa 3 (Palacio 29, 34, Constant 78)
Catania 0 Att: 20,649

Juventus 1 (Vucinic 30)
Bologna 1 (Portanova 52) Att: 35,679

Lecce 1 (Mesbah 24)
Atalanta 2 (Denis pen 3, 55) Att: 8,090

Milan 1 (El Shaarawy 62)
Udinese 1 (Di Natale 29) Att: 37,592

Palermo 3 (Zahavi 1, Bertolo 14, Miccoli 76)
Cagliari 2 (Conti 84, Nainggolan 90+1) Att: 18,965

Thursday, September 22
Roma 1 (Osvaldo 24)
Siena 1 (Vitiello 88) Att: 34,986

Saturday, September 24
Bologna 1 (Diamanti pen 65)
Internazionale 3 (Pazzini 39, Milito pen 81, Lucio 87) Att: 22,473

Milan 1 (Seedorf 5)
Cesena 0 Att: 50,000

Napoli 0
Fiorentina 0 Att: 40,000

Sunday, September 25
Atalanta 2 (Schelotto 34, Cigarini 59)
Novara 1 (Porcari 88) Att: 16,000

Cagliari 0
Udinese 0 Att: 10,000

Catania 1 (Bergessio 21)
Juventus 1 (Krasic 49) Att: 20,000

Chievo 2 (Pellissier 74, Moscardelli 90+3)
Genoa 1 (Palacio 48) Att: 7,000

Lazio 0
Palermo 0 Att: 25,000

Parma 0
Roma 1 (Osvaldo 50) Att: 12,822

Siena 3 (Destro 6, Calaio 52, 70)
Lecce 0 Att: 8,469

Saturday, October 1
Internazionale 0
Napoli 3 (Campagnaro 42, Maggio 55, Hamsik 74) Att: 58,000

Roma 3 (Bojan 20, Osvaldo 30, Simplicio 81)
Atalanta 1 (Denis 48) Att: 36,200

Sunday, October 2
Cesena 0
Chievo 0 Att: 12,500

Fiorentina 1 (Cerci 7)
Lazio 2 (Hernanes 28, Klose 83) Att: 22,773

Juventus 2 (Marchisio 87, 90+3)
Milan 0 Att: 37,281

Lecce 0
Cagliari 2 (Brivio og 9, Biondini 40) Att: 6,794

Novara 3 (Rigoni pen 49, Morimoto 64, Jeda 84)
Catania 3 (Legrottaglie 14, Lodi 56, Gomez 90+1) Att: 9,848

Palermo 2 (Migliaccio 19, Hernandez pen 90+4)
Siena 0 Att: 20,461

Parma 3 (Giovinco 29, pen 41, Morrone 50)
Genoa 1 (Palacio pen 90+3) Att: 9,627

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Delighted...boss McCoist (left)

SCOTLAND

Winning derby start

Ally McCoist was victorious in his first "Old Firm" game as a manager, his Rangers side beating Celtic 4-2 at Ibrox. However, they lost 3-2 to second-tier Falkirk next time out in the League Cup.

Rangers lead the SPL table by nine points from Motherwell, although Celtic have a game in hand.

SPAIN

Barca scoring for fun

Barcelona's 8-0 victory against Osasuna was their biggest La Liga win at home in almost 15 years and inflicted the visitors heaviest top-flight defeat in over half a century. Barca scored 23 goals in their opening six league games of the season, with Lionel Messi contributing eight.

SWEDEN

Sevin in seven

Helsingborg became the seventh team to win the Allsvenskan in seven years, wrapping up their first Swedish title since 1999 by beating GAIS 3-1 and then listening in as closest challengers AIK Solna held 1-1 by Malmo.

"We've never cheered so much for a Malmo goal," said Helsingborg goalkeeper Par Hansson, who followed the game on the way home with his team-mates on the club bus.

TURKEY

Victory in Italy

Trabzonspor's 1-0 win away to Internazionale in the Champions League was the first by a Turkish club side on Italian soil. Gustavo

Udinese 2 (Benatia 29, Di Natale pen 71)
Bologna 0 Att: 16,338

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	5	3	2	0	9	3	11
Udinese	5	3	2	0	7	1	11
Napoli	5	3	1	1	9	3	10
Palermo	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Cagliari	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Roma	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Lazio	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Chievo	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Fiorentina	5	2	1	2	6	4	7
Genoa	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Catania	5	1	3	1	5	7	6
Parma	5	2	0	3	6	10	6
Novara	5	1	2	2	10	10	5
Siena	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Milan	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Atalanta*	5	3	1	1	8	7	4
Inter	5	1	1	3	7	11	4
Lecce	5	1	0	4	3	9	3
Cesena	5	0	1	4	2	7	1
Bologna	5	0	1	4	2	10	1

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will go down
**6pts deducted because of involvement in match-fixing scandal*

Leading scorers
5 Sebastian Giovinco (Parma)
5 Rodrigo Palacio (Genoa)

NORWAY

Sep 14: Valerenga 0 Odd Grenland 1.
Sep 15: Sarpsborg 1 Stromsgodset 1.
Sep 16: Brann 1 Haugesund 0.
Sep 17: Fredrikstad 0 Molde 1.
Sep 18: Tromso 2 Stromsgodset 0; Aalesund 2 Sarpsborg 0; Viking 2 Sogndal 0; Stabaek 1 Odd Grenland 3; Lillestrom 0 Valerenga 1.
Sep 19: Rosenborg 4 Start 1.
Sep 22: Rosenborg 2 Sogndal 1.
Sep 23: Molde 0 Viking 0.
Sep 24: Stromsgodset 1 Stabaek 0.
Sep 25: Sogndal 1 Brann 0; Haugesund 1 Aalesund 0; Start 3 Lillestrom 0; Odd Grenland 3 Tromso 1; Valerenga 1 Rosenborg 0.
Sep 26: Sarpsborg 1 Fredrikstad 4.
Sep 29: Aalesund 1 Tromso 0.
Sep 30: Lillestrom 2 Rosenborg 5.
Oct 1: Viking 1 Haugesund 1.
Oct 2: Fredrikstad 2 Sogndal 2; Brann 1 Valerenga 4; Odd Grenland 1 Stromsgodset 0; Stabaek 2 Sarpsborg 0; Tromso 0 Molde 2.
Oct 3: Aalesund 0 Start 0.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde	25	16	4	5	47	32	52
Rosenborg	24	12	6	6	57	28	42
Tromso	25	12	6	7	44	31	42
Valerenga	25	12	5	8	34	27	41
Brann	25	11	6	8	40	40	39
Odd Grenland	25	11	5	9	37	40	38
Haugesund	25	11	4	10	44	37	37
Stromsgodset	25	10	7	8	35	33	37
Stabaek	24	11	3	10	41	42	36
Viking	25	8	8	9	27	32	32
Aalesund	24	9	5	10	25	30	32
Lillestrom	25	9	4	12	44	46	31
Fredrikstad	24	8	4	12	30	33	28
Sogndal	25	7	7	11	21	28	28
Start	25	6	3	16	32	49	21
Sarpsborg	25	4	5	16	26	56	17

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

POLAND

Sep 16: Widzew 0 Zaglebie 0; Lech 4 Jagiellonia 1.
Sep 17: Podbeskidzie 0 Ruch 1; LKS 1 Gornik 1; Korona 1 Lechia 0.
Sep 18: Cracovia 0 Slask 1; Polonia 2 Legia 1.
Sep 19: Wisla 2 GKS 0.
Sep 23: Podbeskidzie 1 Lechia 0; Slask 3 Lech 1.
Sep 24: Gornik 0 Cracovia 1; Zaglebie 2 LKS 1; GKS 0 Legia 2.
Sep 25: Widzew 4 Jagiellonia 2; Wisla 3 Ruch 2.
Sep 26: Polonia 0 Korona 0.
Sep 30: LKS 2 Podbeskidzie 1; Lechia 0 GKS 0.
Oct 1: Ruch 3 Widzew 1; Jagiellonia 3 Zaglebie 1; Cracovia 0 Lech 3.
Oct 2: Slask 4 Polonia 0; Legia 2 Wisla 0.
Oct 3: Korona 2 Gornik 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slask	9	6	1	2	18	7	19
Korona	9	5	4	0	13	7	19
Lech	9	5	1	3	21	8	16
Ruch	9	5	1	3	13	12	16
Legia	8	5	0	3	16	9	15
Wisla	9	4	3	2	9	7	15
Widzew	9	3	5	1	10	8	14
Jagiellonia	9	4	2	3	16	17	14
Polonia	9	4	2	3	10	11	14
Lechia	9	2	3	4	5	7	9
Gornik	9	2	3	4	8	12	9
Podbeskidzie	9	2	3	4	8	15	9
LKS	9	2	2	5	6	18	8
Zaglebie	8	1	4	3	6	9	7
GKS	9	1	2	6	8	12	5
Cracovia	9	1	2	6	6	14	5

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

PORTUGAL

Sep 16: Gil Vicente 1 Olhanense 1.
Sep 17: Nacional 1 Pacos Ferreira 0.
Sep 18: Uniao Leiria 1 Maritimo 3; Setubal 1 Beira Mar 0; Feirense 0 Porto 0; Benfica 4 Academica 1.
Sep 19: Guimaraes 1 Braga 1; Rio Ave 2 Sporting 3.
Sep 23: Porto 2 Benfica 2.
Sep 24: Braga 2 Nacional 0; Sporting 3 Setubal 0.
Sep 25: Beira Mar 0 Rio Ave 0; Pacos Ferreira 1 Gil Vicente 2; Olhanense 2 Uniao Leiria 1; Maritimo 2 Guimaraes 1.
Sep 26: Academica 4 Feirense 0.
Sep 30: Setubal 2 Rio Ave 1.
Oct 1: Benfica 4 Pacos Ferreira 1.
Oct 2: Feirense 2 Maritimo 2; Nacional 1 Olhanense 0; Uniao Leiria 1 Braga 0; Guimaraes 0 Sporting 1; Academica 0 Porto 3.
Oct 3: Gil Vicente 0 Beira Mar 0.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	7	5	2	0	17	5	17
Benfica	7	5	2	0	19	8	17
Braga	7	4	2	1	9	3	14
Sporting	7	4	2	1	13	8	14
Maritimo	7	4	2	1	12	9	14
Academica	7	4	0	3	12	10	12
Setubal	7	3	1	3	7	11	10
Olhanense	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Gil Vicente	7	2	3	2	9	10	9
Beira Mar	7	1	4	2	3	2	7
Feirense	7	1	4	2	5	10	7
Nacional	7	2	1	4	3	12	7
Uniao Leiria	7	2	0	5	8	14	6
Guimaraes	7	1	1	5	7	11	4
P Ferreira	7	1	1	5	7	13	4
Rio Ave	7	0	2	5	4	9	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sep 21: Bray 4 UCD 0.
Sep 23: Dundalk 0 St Patrick's 2; Galway 0 Bohemians 3; Drogheda 0 Sligo 3.
Sep 25: Shamrock 5 Bray 2.
Sep 26: UCD 2 Bohemians 0.
Sep 30: Bohemians 0 St Patrick's 0; Derry 1 Bray 1; UCD 3 Dundalk 0.
Oct 1: Sligo 7 Galway 1.
Oct 2: Shamrock 4 Drogheda 0.
Oct 3: UCD 2 St Patrick's 1.
Oct 4: Sligo 5 Dundalk 0.
Oct 5: Shamrock 1 Bohemians 1.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sligo	33	20	7	6	66	16	67
Shamrock	32	19	8	5	60	22	65
Derry	31	16	12	3	56	21	60
St Patrick's	33	16	11	6	57	30	59
Bohemians	33	16	8	9	37	24	56
Bray	32	12	6	14	41	47	42
Dundalk	33	10	11	12	49	50	41
UCD	33	10	4	19	39	72	34
Drogheda	32	5	4	23	25	68	19
Galway	32	1	3	28	19	99	6

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will enter rel/prom play-off

ROMANIA

Sep 16: Mioveni 2 Sportul 1; Ceahlaul 0 Concordia 0.
Sep 17: Vointa 0 Otelul 1; Astra 2 Gaz Metan 0; Brasov 1 Petrolul 0.
Sep 18: Steaua 1 Pandurii 2; Dinamo 0 Rapid 0.
Sep 19: Tirgu-Mures 1 Universitatea 1; CFR 2 Vaslui 0.
Sep 23: Concordia 2 Brasov 1; Otelul 0 Mioveni 0.
Sep 24: Universitatea 1 Ceahlaul 0; Rapid 1 CFR 1.
Sep 25: Sportul 0 Steaua 0; Vaslui 2 Vointa 0; Petrolul 1 Dinamo 5.
Sep 26: Pandurii 1 Astra 2; Gaz Metan 2 Tirgu-Mures 1.
Sep 30: Astra 2 Sportul 2; Tirgu-Mures 3 Pandurii 3.
Oct 1: Gaz Metan 2 Universitatea 5; Dinamo 2 Concordia 0.
Oct 2: Vointa 0 Rapid 1; CFR 1 Petrolul 1; Steaua 2 Otelul 1.
Oct 3: Brasov 1 Ceahlaul 1; Mioveni 0 Vaslui 5.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	9	7	1	1	20	5	22
Universitatea	9	5	3	1	15	8	18
Rapid	9	5	3	1	11	5	18
CFR	9	5	2	2	18	7	17
Vaslui	9	5	1	3	16	9	16
Pandurii	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Astra	9	4	3	2	11	9	15
Steaua	9	4	2	3	13	10	14
Gaz Metan	9	4	0	5	15	19	12
Brasov	9	3	2	4	9	10	11
Otelul	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Ceahlaul	9	2	4	3	7	9	10
Petrolul	9	2	2	5	8	13	8
Tirgu-Mures	9	1	4	4	10	14	7
Vointa	9	1	4	4	5	11	7
Sportul	9	1	4	4	9	17	7
Mioveni	9	2	1	6	7	21	7
Concordia	9	1	3	5	4	13	6

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

RUSSIA

Regular season
Sep 17: Tom 0 Krasnodar 4; Volga 1 Spartak Nalchik 0.
Sep 18: Rostov 1 CSKA 1; Dynamo 3 Amkar 0; Rubin 2 Zenit 3; Spartak Moscow 3 Krylia Sovetov 0; Terek 0 Lokomotiv 4; Kuban 1 Anzhi 0.
Sep 24: Zenit 4 Tom 0; CSKA 3 Volga 1.
Sep 25: Krasnodar 2 Spartak Moscow 4; Spartak Nalchik 0 Kuban 1; Amkar 0 Rostov 1; Lokomotiv 1 Rubin 1; Krylia Sovetov 1 Dynamo 0.
Sep 26: Anzhi 2 Terek 2.
Oct 1: Terek 0 Spartak Nalchik 1; Rostov 1 Krylia Sovetov 0; Volga 0 Amkar 0; Dynamo 2 Krasnodar 1.
Oct 2: Tom 0 Rubin 2; Spartak Moscow 2 Zenit 2; Kuban 0 CSKA 0; Anzhi 0 Lokomotiv 1.

RUSSIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	26	15	8	3	52	23	53
CSKA	26	14	9	3	46	23	51
Dynamo	26	15	5	6	48	27	50
Lokomotiv	26	13	7	6	43	25	46
Spartak M	26	13	7	6	40	29	46
Kuban	26	13	5	8	33	22	44
Rubin	26	11	9	6	34	25	42
Anzhi	26	11	8	7	29	24	41
Krasnodar	26	8	8	10	34	39	32
Rostov	26	7	7	12	27	38	28
Volga	26	7	3	16	23	35	24
Terek	26	6	6	14	23	41	24
Amkar	26	5	9	12	15	33	24
Krylia Sovetov	26	5	7	14	17	38	22
Spartak N	26	4	8	14	19	32	20
Tom	26	4	8	14	18	47	20

30-round regular season (15x2); top 8 will form championship group, bottom 8 will form relegation group (from which the bottom 2 will go down; 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs)

SCOTLAND

Regular season
Sep 17: Dunfermline 2 Hibernian 2; Aberdeen 2 Kilmarnock 2; Dundee United 3 Inverness 1; Hearts 2 St Mirren 0; Motherwell 0 St Johnstone 3.
Sep 18: Rangers 4 Celtic 2.
Sep 24: Dunfermline 0 Rangers 4; Celtic 2 Inverness 0; Hibernian 3 Dundee United 3; Motherwell 1 Aberdeen 0; St Mirren 3 Kilmarnock 0.
Sep 25: St Johnstone 2 Hearts 0.
Sep 27: Rangers 2 Kilmarnock 0.
Sep 28: Hibernian 3 St Johnstone 2.
Sep 30: Aberdeen 4 Dunfermline 0.
Oct 1: Dundee United 1 Motherwell 3; Inverness 2 St Mirren 1; Kilmarnock 1 St Johnstone 2; Rangers 1 Hibernian 0.
Oct 2: Hearts 2 Celtic 0.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	10	9	1	0	22	3	28
Motherwell	10	6	1	3	13	13	19
Celtic	9	6	0	3	18	8	18
Hearts	10	4	3	3	11	6	15
St Johnstone	10	4	3	3	13	10	15
St Mirren	10	3	3	4	8	9	12
Kilmarnock	10	2	4	4	12	15	10
Dundee Utd	10	2	4	4	14	19	10
Aberdeen	10	2	3	5	8	11	9
Hibernian	10	2	3	5	11	18	9
Dunfermline	9	2	3	4	11	20	9
Inverness	10	2	2	6	10	19	8

33-round regular season (11x3); top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (from which the bottom team will go down)

Colman's second-half penalty at home to Lyon in their next game kept the competition debutants on top of Group B.

ARGENTINA

Saja finally beaten

Racing Club goalkeeper Sebastian Saja conceded a goal for the first time in 533 minutes when his opposite number, Union Santa Fe keeper Enrique Bologna, scored from a rebound after Saja had saved the keeper's penalty in their 1-1 draw.

Racing remain unbeaten in the apertura, along with Boca Juniors.

History boys...Trabzonspor are the first Turkish team to win in Italy

BRAZIL

Back to winning ways

After a club record 10 league games without a win – since a 1-0 victory over Coritiba in August put them top of the table – Flamengo got back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over America Mineiro.

CHILE

Nine on the trot

Universidad de Chile set a new domestic record with a best-ever start to a Chilean league campaign, winning their first nine games.

SERBIA

Sep 17: Rad 1 Jagodina 2; Spartak 0 Sloboda Sevojno 0; Javor 1 Novi Pazar 0; Smederevo 1 Metalac 0; BSK 0 Radnicki 0; Borac 0 Red Star 3; Partizan 2 Hajduk 0; Vojvodina 2 OFK 0.
Sep 24: Radnicki 2 Borac 0; Metalac 1 BSK 2; Novi Pazar 1 Smederevo 0; Sloboda Sevojno 1 Javor 0; OFK 2 Spartak 3; Jagodina 1 Vojvodina 1; Partizan 1 Rad 0.
Sep 25: Hajduk 0 Red Star 1.
Oct 1: Rad 3 Hajduk 0; Vojvodina 1 Partizan 2; Spartak 0 Jagodina 4; Smederevo 1 Sloboda Sevojno 2; BSK 2 Novi Pazar 2; Borac 0 Metalac 0; Red Star 1 Radnicki 1.
Oct 2: Javor 0 OFK 0.

SERBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	7	6	0	1	15	3	18
Red Star	7	5	1	1	10	3	16
S Sevojno	7	4	3	0	10	6	15
Radnicki	7	3	4	0	12	5	13
Vojvodina	7	3	3	1	13	6	12
Spartak	7	3	3	1	8	7	12
Hajduk	7	4	0	3	9	9	12
Rad	7	3	0	4	12	7	9
Smederevo	7	3	0	4	5	8	9
Jagodina	7	2	2	3	8	7	8
OFK	7	2	1	4	8	12	7
Javor	7	2	1	4	5	10	7
BSK	7	1	3	3	5	10	6
Borac	7	1	2	4	3	8	5
Novi Pazar	7	1	1	5	3	16	4
Metalac	7	0	2	5	2	11	2

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SPAIN

Saturday, September 17
Barcelona 8 (Messi 5, 41, 79, Fabregas 12, Villa 34, 75, Roversio og 40, Xavi 56)
Osasuna 0 Att: 70,549

Granada 1 (Uche 56)
Villarreal 0 Att: 21,000

Mallorca 0
Malaga 1 (Caceres og 38) Att: 13,000

Sevilla 1 (Kanoute 53)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 35,000

Sporting Gijon 0
Valencia 1 (Soldado 29) Att: 20,000

Sunday, September 18
Athletic Bilbao 2 (De Marcos 38, David Lopez pen 85)
Betis 3 (Benat 6, Nacho 12, Salva Sevilla pen 45) Att: 30,000

Atletico Madrid 4 (Falcao 22, pen 36, 54, Adrian 77)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 40,000

Getafe 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Michu 4) Att: 12,000

Levante 1 (Kone 68)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 25,000

Zaragoza 2 (Luis Garcia 29, 90+1)
Espanyol 1 (Javi Lopez 70) Att: 25,000

Tuesday, September 20
Osasuna 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 14,903

Real Sociedad 1 (Estrada 64)
Granada 0 Att: 23,000

Villarreal 2 (Rossi 8, Nilmar 51)
Mallorca 0 Att: 18,000

Wednesday, September 21
Atletico Madrid 4 (Lora og 28, Dominguez 67, Falcao 71, 81)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 35,000

Malaga 1 (Cazorla 62)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 30,000

Racing Santander 0
Real Madrid 0 Att: 21,000

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Tamudo 71)
Levante 2 (Valdo 10, Ballesteros 29) Att: 8,850

Valencia 2 (Abidal og 12, Pablo 23)
Barcelona 2 (Pedro 14, Fabregas 77) Att: 50,000

Thursday, September 22
Betis 4 (Santa Cruz 7, 50, Salva Sevilla pen 11, Benat pen 48)
Zaragoza 3 (Juarez 36, Juan Carlos 77, 78) Att: 38,000

Espanyol 1 (Pandiani 90+1)
Getafe 0 Att: 21,414

Saturday, September 24
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Gabilondo 42)
Villarreal 1 (Nilmar 53) Att: 37,000

Barcelona 5 (Villa 8, Miranda og 14, Messi 25, 77, 90+1)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 83,154

Real Madrid 6 (Cristiano Ronaldo 39, pen 51, pen 83, Higuain 45, Varane 67, Benzema 73)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Michu 1, 55) Att: 65,000

Sevilla 1 (Kanoute 17)
Valencia 0 Att: 41,000

Sunday, September 25
Granada 1 (Fran Rico 64)
Osasuna 1 (Raul Garcia 29) Att: 15,000

Levante 3 (Ruben pen 14, pen 58, Barkero 76)
Espanyol 1 (Moreno 73) Att: 10,400

Mallorca 2 (Victor 20, Castro 48)
Real Sociedad 1 (Agirretxe 15) Att: 11,856

Sporting Gijon 0
Racing Santander 0 Att: 22,000

Zaragoza 0
Malaga 0 Att: 18,000

Monday, September 26
Getafe 1 (Diego Castro 31)
Betis 0 Att: 10,000

Saturday, October 1
Malaga 3 (Van Nistelrooy 63, Maresca 87, Julio Baptista 90+2)
Getafe 2 (Pedro Leon 54, Fedor 75) Att: 30,000

Osasuna 2 (Raul Garcia 45+1, 58)
Mallorca 2 (Hemed pen 34, pen 78) Att: 15,000

Racing Santander 1 (Adrian 59)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Tamudo 20) Att: 10,000

Valencia 1 (Canales 4)
Granada 0 Att: 36,000

Villarreal 2 (Rossi pen 40, Perez 84)
Zaragoza 2 (Luis Garcia 35, Barrera 45) Att: 17,000

Sunday, October 2
Atletico Madrid 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 50,000

Betis 0
Levante 1 (Juanlu 33) Att: 35,000

Espanyol 0
Real Madrid 4 (Higuain 17, 65, 88, Callejon 82) Att: 34,423

Real Sociedad 1 (Inigo Martinez 61)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Llorente 34, 69) Att: 29,000

Sporting Gijon 0
Barcelona 1 (Adriano 12) Att: 24,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	4	2	0	23	4	14
Levante	6	4	2	0	8	3	14
Real Madrid	6	4	1	1	20	5	13
Malaga	6	4	1	1	10	4	13
Valencia	6	4	1	1	9	6	13
Sevilla	6	3	3	0	6	3	12
Betis	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Atletico	6	2	2	2	8	6	8
Sociedad	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Mallorca	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Osasuna	6	1	4	1	5	12	7
Villarreal	6	1	3	2	7	11	6
Vallecano	6	1	3	2	6	10	6
Zaragoza	6	1	3	2	7	13	6
Espanyol	6	2	0	4	5	11	6
Athletic	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Getafe	6	1	1	4	6	10	4
Santander	6	0	4	2	4	9	4
Granada	6	1	1	4	2	8	4
Gijon	6	0	1	5	2	10	1

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

Leading scorers
8 Lionel Messi (Barcelona)
7 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
5 Radamel Falcao (Atletico Madrid)
5 Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid)
5 Roberto Soldado (Valencia)

SWEDEN

Sep 15: Mjallby 0 AIK 2.
Sep 16: GAIS 1 Norrkoping 2.
Sep 17: Kalmar 1 Halmstad 0.
Sep 18: Helsingborg 3 Mjallby 0; Gefle 2 Syrianska 1; Malmo 1 Trelleborg 1; Hacken 2 Elfsborg 0; Orebro 0 Gothenburg 2.
Sep 19: AIK 0 Djurgarden 1.
Sep 21: Halmstad 1 Malmo 5; Trelleborg 0 GAIS 1; Syrianska 3 Orebro 1; Norrkoping 1 Gefle 1; Elfsborg 3 Helsingborg 2.
Sep 22: Gothenburg 2 Hacken 2.
Sep 23: Djurgarden 2 Kalmar 1.
Sep 24: Mjallby 2 Elfsborg 1; Halmstad 0 Syrianska 1.
Sep 25: Norrkoping 0 Hacken 1; GAIS 1 Helsingborg 3; Trelleborg 1 Orebro 1; Malmo 1 AIK 1.
Sep 26: Gefle 1 Kalmar 1; Djurgarden 1 Gothenburg 2.
Sep 30: Syrianska 0 Djurgarden 0.
Oct 1: Gothenburg 0 Mjallby 1; AIK 2 GAIS 1.
Oct 2: Elfsborg 3 Gefle 0; Helsingborg 1 Norrkoping 1; Orebro 1 Halmstad 0; Hacken 1 Trelleborg 0; Kalmar 1 Malmo 2.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Helsingborg (C)	28	18	8	2	54	24	62
Elfsborg	28	17	3	8	48	30	54
AIK	28	17	3	8	43	25	54
Hacken	27	14	7	6	50	27	49
GAIS	28	14	3	11	44	34	45
Gothenburg	28	12	6	10	39	33	42
Malmo	26	11	9	6	32	29	42
Kalmar	28	11	5	12	33	32	38
Gefle	28	9	10	9	28	38	37
Orebro	28	11	3	14	34	39	36
Mjallby	28	10	4	14	29	38	34
Djurgarden	27	9	5	13	32	37	32
Norrkoping	28	8	7	13	30	45	31
Syrianska	28	8	4	16	27	41	28
Trelleborg	28	7	4	17	38	59	25
Halmstad (R)	28	3	5	20	23	53	14

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated, 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

Sep 21: Zurich 0 Thun 0; Young Boys 4 Xamax 1; Basle 6 Lausanne 0.
Sep 22: Sion 2 Grasshopper 0; Servette 0 Lucerne 2.
Sep 24: Thun 1 Basle 1; Zurich 1 Young Boys 2.
Sep 25: Grasshopper 0 Xamax 1; Lausanne 0 Servette 0; Lucerne 2 Sion 0.
Oct 1: Basle 3 Servette 0; Xamax 4 Thun 0.
Oct 2: Sion 1 Lausanne 0; Young Boys 1 Lucerne 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lucerne	11	7	3	1	17	5	24
Young Boys	11	6	3	2	20	11	21
Sion	11	6	2	3	17	12	20
Basle	11	5	4	2	26	13	19
Thun	11	4	4	3	14	13	16
Xamax	11	4	3	4	12	14	15
Servette	11	3	3	5	16	20	12
Zurich	10	3	1	6	16	16	10
Grasshopper	10	2	1	7	8	23	7
Lausanne	11	1	2	8	8	27	5

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated, 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

TURKEY

Regular season
Sep 16: Kayserispor 0 Antalyaspor 1; Gaziantepspor 1 Fenerbahce 3.
Sep 17: Genclerbirligi 2 Karabukspor 1; Trabzonspor 0 Istanbul BB 1; Orduspor 1 Manisaspor 0.
Sep 18: Mersin 1 Bursaspor 3; Sivasspor 0 Eskisehirspor 4; Galatasaray 3 Samsunspor 1.
Sep 19: Besiktas 3 Ankaragucu 1.
Sep 20: Istanbul BB 1 Orduspor 1; Fenerbahce 1 Manisaspor 1; Gaziantepspor 1 Kayserispor 2.
Sep 21: Karabukspor 1 Galatasaray 1; Eskisehirspor 0 Genclerbirligi 0; Antalyaspor 1 Mersin 2; Samsunspor 1 Trabzonspor 1.
Sep 22: Bursaspor 1 Besiktas 2; Ankaragucu 1 Sivasspor 2.
Sep 23: Kayserispor 0 Fenerbahce 1.
Sep 24: Mersin 2 Gaziantepspor 0; Trabzonspor 3 Karabukspor 1; Manisaspor 0 Istanbul BB 2.
Sep 25: Orduspor 0 Samsunspor 0; Sivasspor 3 Bursaspor 0; Genclerbirligi 1 Ankaragucu 1; Besiktas 1 Antalyaspor 0.

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USA

Seattle three in a row

Seattle Sounders won their third consecutive US Open Cup, beating Chicago Fire 2-0, and became the first team in 42 years to win the trophy three years in a row.

Dwayne De Rosario scored the fastest hat-trick in MLS history as DC United beat Real Salt Lake 4-1, with three goals in nine minutes.

Sounders' keeper...Kasey Keller

GHANA

Great G8 victory

Reigning league champions Berekum Chelsea beat Medeama 1-0 to win the G8 Cup, which is a pre-season tournament for the top-eight teams in last term's Ghanian Premier League. They did, however, lose 4-3 on penalties to second-tier side Nania in the Ghanaian Super Cup, in which Evans Omani scored the decisive spot-kick after the match ended 1-1 in normal time.

NIGERIA

Heartland win the Cup

A goal from Chinedu Efugh gave Heartland a 1-0 victory in the Nigerian Cup Final against Enyimba, who were also runners-up in last season's tournament.

CHINA

Newcomers triumph

Guangzhou Evergrande became the first promoted side to win the Chinese Super League title, securing their first-ever trophy as a result of their 4-1 victory at Shaanxi Chanba and Beijing Guoan's 1-1 draw at Shandong Luneng.

The Guangdong-based club were relegated for

CLUB FOOTBALL

Sep 26: Galatasaray 2 Eskisehirspor 0.
Sep 30: Bursaspor 4 Genclerbirligi 0.
Oct 1: Karabukspor 1 Orduspor 2; Fenerbahce 4 Istanbul BB 2; Antalyaspor 2 Sivasspor 2.
Oct 2: Samsunspor 1 Manisaspor 2; Kayserispor 2 Mersin 2; Eskisehirspor 0 Trabzonspor 2; Ankaragucu 0 Galatasaray 3.
Oct 3: Gaziantepspor 0 Besiktas 0.

TURKEY – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Galatasaray	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Istanbul BB	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Besiktas	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Mersin	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Bursaspor	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Trabzonspor	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
Orduspor	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
Eskisehirspor	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Antalyaspor	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Sivasspor	5	2	1	2	8	9	7
Samsunspor	5	1	2	2	6	8	5
Manisaspor	5	1	2	2	4	6	5
Genclerbirligi	5	1	2	2	5	9	5
Karabukspor	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Kayserispor	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Gaziantepspor	5	0	1	4	2	8	1
Ankaragucu	5	0	1	4	4	11	1

34-round regular season (17x2); top 4 will form championship group, 5th to 8th will form Europa League place group, bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Sep 16: Volyn 0 Metalurh 2.
Sep 17: Illichivets 1 Zorya 1; Karpaty 0 Obolon 0; Dnipro 2 Tavriya 1.
Sep 18: Chornomorets 1 Dynamo 2; Kryvbas 0 Metalist 1; Shakhtar 1 Vorskla 0; Arsenal 0 Oleksandria 0.
Sep 24: Vorskla 3 Volyn 1; Metalist 1 Dnipro 0; Dynamo 0 Shakhtar 0.
Sep 25: Zorya 0 Chornomorets 2; Oleksandria 1 Kryvbas 1; Obolon 0 Arsenal 1.
Sep 26: Tavriya 3 Illichivets 2; Metalurh 2 Karpaty 1.
Sep 30: Dnipro 5 Oleksandria 1.
Oct 1: Kryvbas 1 Obolon 0; Chornomorets 1 Tavriya 0; Volyn 0 Karpaty 2.
Oct 2: Illichivets 0 Metalist 1; Shakhtar 4 Zorya 1; Vorskla 1 Dynamo 2; Arsenal 1 Metalurh 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	12	9	3	0	29	7	30
Dynamo	12	9	3	0	24	5	30
Metalist	12	8	4	0	19	8	28
Arsenal	12	5	5	2	16	9	20
Kryvbas	12	6	2	4	11	10	20
Tavriya	12	4	5	3	17	14	17
Vorskla	12	5	2	5	15	14	17
Metalurh	12	5	1	6	12	15	16
Dnipro	12	4	3	5	18	18	15
Volyn	12	3	3	6	12	22	12
Chornomorets	12	2	5	5	10	15	11
Zorya	12	3	2	7	12	20	11
Karpaty	12	2	4	6	10	15	10
Oleksandria	12	2	4	6	9	20	10
Illichivets	12	2	3	7	12	21	9
Obolon	12	0	5	7	4	17	5

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SOUTH AMERICA

SUDAMERICANA CUP

2nd round

1st legs - Aug 10-Sep 16; 2nd legs - Aug 24-Sep 23

Anzoategui (Ven) v Universitario (Per)
1-2, 0-2 (agg 1-4)
Argentinos Juniors (Arg) v Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
0-0, 0-4 (agg 0-4)
Arsenal (Arg) v Estudiantes (Arg)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) v Botafogo (Bra)
1-2, 0-1 (agg 1-3)
Ceara (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra)
2-1, 0-3 (agg 2-4)
Flamengo (Bra) v Atletico Paranaense (Bra)
1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) v Deportivo Cali (Col)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2, Santa Fe 6-5 on pens)
La Equidad (Col) v Libertad (Par)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Lanus (Arg) v Godoy Cruz (Arg)
2-2, 0-0 (agg 2-2, Godoy Cruz on away goals)
LDU Quito (Ecu) v Trujillanos (Ven)
4-1, 1-0 (agg 5-1)
Nacional (Par) v Aurora (Bol)
1-1, 2-5 (agg 3-6)
Olimpia (Par) v Emelec (Ecu)
2-1, 2-1 (agg 4-2)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) v Deportes Iquique (Chl)
2-1, 0-0 (agg 2-1)
Universidad de Chile (Chl) v Nacional (Uru)
1-0, 2-0 (agg 3-0)
Vasco da Gama (Bra) v Palmeiras (Bra)
2-0, 1-3 (agg 3-3, Vasco on away goals)

Bye to 3rd round: Independiente (Arg; holders)

ARGENTINA

Apertura

Sep 16: Independiente 0 Colon 1; San Martin 0 Belgrano 1; Olimpo 2 Godoy Cruz 2.
Sep 17: Tigre 2 Arsenal 2; San Lorenzo 1 Rafaela 3; All Boys 0 Banfield 1.
Sep 18: Newell's 1 Velez 1; Estudiantes 4 Argentinos 3; Lanus 1 Boca 2; Union 1 Racing 1.
Sep 20: Arsenal 1 All Boys 2; Banfield 1 Olimpo 1; Colon 0 San Martin 0.
Sep 21: Velez 1 San Lorenzo 2; Racing 1 Newell's 0; Rafaela 1 Independiente 3; Belgrano 0 Lanus 0.
Sep 22: Godoy Cruz 1 Union 1; Argentinos 0 Tigre 1; Boca 1 Estudiantes 0.
Sep 24: San Martin 2 Rafaela 1; Olimpo 2 Arsenal 2.
Sep 25: Independiente 0 Velez 1; Tigre 1 All Boys 1; San Lorenzo 0 Racing 0; Estudiantes 2 Belgrano 3; Argentinos 0 Boca 0.
Sep 26: Union 1 Banfield 0; Lanus 1 Colon 1; Newell's 1 Godoy Cruz 1.
Sep 30: Belgrano 1 Argentinos 2.
Oct 1: Velez 1 San Martin 0; Rafaela 2 Lanus 1.
Oct 2: All Boys 1 Olimpo 2; Racing 1 Independiente 1; Colon 1 Estudiantes 1; Boca 1 Tigre 0.
Oct 3: Banfield 2 Newell's 0; Godoy Cruz 2 San Lorenzo 0; Arsenal 2 Union 1.

ARGENTINA – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca	10	7	3	0	12	2	24
Rafaela	10	6	1	3	16	12	19
Racing	10	4	6	0	9	3	18
Colon	10	4	5	1	10	7	17
Godoy Cruz	10	4	4	2	17	12	16
Lanus	10	4	4	2	11	6	16
Belgrano	10	4	4	2	12	9	16
Tigre	10	4	4	2	12	9	16
Velez	10	4	2	4	10	8	14
Union	10	3	4	3	8	10	13
Arsenal	10	3	3	4	13	13	12
Olimpo	10	2	5	3	11	13	11
Independiente	10	3	2	5	7	9	11
San Lorenzo	10	3	2	5	10	13	11
San Martin	10	2	4	4	7	9	10
All Boys	10	2	4	4	9	15	10
Newell's	10	1	6	3	6	9	9
Argentinos	10	1	5	4	8	15	8
Banfield	10	2	1	7	4	11	7
Estudiantes	10	1	3	6	11	18	6

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation after apertura

BRAZIL

Sep 17: Sao Paulo 4 Ceara 0; Vasco 4 Gremio 0; Goianiense 1 At Mineiro 0.
Sep 18: Corinthians 1 Santos 3; Avai 1 Palmeiras 1; Paranaense 0 Figueirense 0; Bahia 3 Fluminense 0; Botafogo 1 Flamengo 1; Cruzeiro 0 America 0; Internacional 1 Coritiba 1.
Sep 21: Bahia 1 Paranaense 0; America 1 Santos 2; Coritiba 2 Cruzeiro 1; Fluminense 3 Avai 1; Figueirense 1 Internacional 1; At Mineiro 1 Flamengo 1; Sao Paulo 0 Corinthians 0.
Sep 22: Vasco 1 Goianiense 1; Palmeiras 1 Ceara 0; Gremio 0 Botafogo 1.
Sep 24: Santos 2 Figueirense 3; Flamengo 2 America 1; Paranaense 1 Fluminense 1.
Sep 25: Corinthians 1 Bahia 0; Botafogo 2 Sao Paulo 2; Cruzeiro 0 Vasco 3; Avai 1 Gremio 2; Internacional 2 At Mineiro 1; Goianiense 1 Palmeiras 1; Ceara 3 Coritiba 2.
Oct 1: Palmeiras 1 America 1; Fluminense 3 Santos 2; Bahia 3 Avai 2.
Oct 2: Sao Paulo 1 Flamengo 2; Vasco 2 Corinthians 2; At Mineiro 1 Ceara 1; Figueirense 0 Coritiba 0; Paranaense 2 Internacional 0; Gremio 2 Cruzeiro 0; Goianiense 2 Botafogo 0.
Oct 5: Gremio 1 Santos 0; Cruzeiro 3 Sao Paulo 3.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco	27	14	8	5	43	30	50
Corinthians	27	14	6	7	39	28	48
Sao Paulo	28	13	8	7	45	35	47
Botafogo	26	13	6	7	40	30	45
Fluminense	27	14	2	11	37	33	44
Flamengo	27	11	11	5	44	35	44
Internacional	27	10	10	7	43	35	40
Palmeiras	27	9	13	5	33	26	40
Gremio	27	11	6	10	32	33	39
Goianiense	27	10	8	9	34	29	38
Coritiba	27	10	7	10	44	34	37
Figueirense	27	9	10	8	32	33	37
Santos	26	10	5	11	38	41	35
Bahia	27	8	9	10	32	35	33
Ceara	27	8	7	12	34	45	31
Cruzeiro	28	8	6	14	34	38	30
Paranaense	27	6	9	12	27	38	27
At Mineiro	27	7	5	15	33	45	26
Avai	27	5	7	15	32	57	22
America	27	3	11	13	33	49	20

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 13: Monarcas Morelia (Mex) 2 Los Angeles Galaxy (USA) 1.
Sep 15: Motagua (Hnd) 2 Alajuelense (CR) 4.
Sep 21: Alajuelense 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Sep 22: Motagua 0 Monarcas Morelia 2.
Sep 28: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Monarcas Morelia 1.
Sep 29: Alajuelense 1 Motagua 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Morelia	5	3	0	2	9	4	9
Los Angeles	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
Motagua	5	0	0	5	2	13	0

Group B

Sep 13: Colorado Rapids (USA) 1 Santos Laguna (Mex) 4; Real Espana (Hnd) 1 Isidro Metapan (ESv) 2.
Sep 21: Colorado Rapids 1 Real Espana 2.
Sep 22: Santos Laguna 6 Isidro Metapan 0.
Sep 28: Real Espana 1 Santos Laguna 1; Isidro Metapan 1 Colorado Rapids 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	5	3	1	1	14	6	10
Colorado	5	2	1	2	9	10	7
Metapan	5	2	0	3	7	13	6
Real Espana	5	1	2	2	7	8	5

Group C

Sep 14: Dallas (USA) 1 Tauro (Pan) 1; Pumas UNAM (Mex) 4 Toronto (Can) 0.
Sep 20: Toronto 1 Tauro 0.
Sep 21: Dallas 0 Pumas UNAM 2.
Sep 27: Toronto 1 Pumas UNAM 1.
Sep 28: Tauro 5 Dallas 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas	5	2	2	1	7	2	8
Dallas	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Toronto	5	2	1	2	4	7	7
Tauro	5	1	2	2	7	7	5

Group D

Sep 14: Comunicaciones (Gtm) 1 Monterrey (Mex) 0; Herediano (CR) 1 Seattle Sounders (USA) 2.
Sep 20: Monterrey 3 Comunicaciones 1; Seattle Sounders 0 Herediano 1.
Sep 27: Comunicaciones 2 Seattle Sounders 2; Monterrey 1 Herediano 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Seattle	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Monterrey	5	3	0	2	9	3	9
Comunic'nes	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Herediano	5	1	0	4	2	10	3

Top 2 in each group qualify for quarter-finals

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Sep 14: America 2 San Luis 2.
Sep 17: Jaguares 5 America 3; Guadalajara 1 Puebla 4; Pachuca 4 Atlas 2; San Luis 0 Santos 1; Atlante 1 Tigres 0; Monterrey 1 Cruz Azul 2.
Sep 18: Pumas 4 Toluca 1; Tijuana 0 Tecos 2; Morelia 4 Queretaro 2.
Sep 24: Cruz Azul 1 Guadalajara 1; Tigres 1

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match fixing in 2009 but have seen their fortunes change dramatically since being taken over by the ambitious Evergrande Real Estate Group.

SOUTH KOREA

Jeonbuk into last four

Lee Dong-gook scored four times as Jeonbuk Motors beat Cerezo Osaka of Japan 6-1 in the quarter-finals of the AFC Champions League to go through 9-5 on aggregate. The 2006 winners now face Al Ittihad in a competition in which the four semi-finalists are all former champions. Fellow K-League side Suwon Bluewings face Al Sadd of Qatar in the other semi.

The K-League is to consider the introduction of promotion and relegation to South Korea's top tier.

Solid...Jeonbuk keep out Cerezo Osaka's Fabio Lopez (in white)

Jaguares 1; Pachuca 1 San Luis 1; Tecos 1 Pumas 2; Atlas 2 Atlante 3; Queretaro 2 Monterrey 1.
Sep 25: Puebla 1 Santos 2; Toluca 2 Morelia 1; America 1 Tijuana 1.
Sep 30: Jaguares 1 Atlas 1.
Oct 1: Pumas 1 America 0; Morelia 0 Tecos 2; Monterrey 0 Toluca 0; Guadalajara 0 Queretaro 1; Santos 1 Cruz Azul 0; San Luis 2 Puebla 1; Atlante 0 Pachuca 1.
Oct 2: Tijuana 1 Tigres 1.

MEXICO – APERTURA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas	11	6	2	3	15	12	20
Jaguares	11	5	4	2	20	17	19
Tigres	11	4	6	1	15	8	18
Cruz Azul	11	5	3	3	13	11	18
Guadalajara	11	5	3	3	12	12	18
Santos	10	5	2	3	16	12	17
Queretaro	11	5	2	4	17	15	17
Pachuca	11	5	2	4	17	18	17
Tecos	11	5	0	6	14	13	15
San Luis	11	4	3	4	13	13	15
Atlante	11	5	0	6	15	17	15
Toluca	11	3	6	2	12	15	15
Monterrey	11	4	2	5	19	15	14
Puebla	11	3	4	4	17	19	13
Morelia	10	4	1	5	12	14	13
America	11	2	4	5	17	20	10
Tijuana	11	1	5	5	12	17	8
Atlas	11	1	3	7	12	20	6

17-round regular season (17x1); top 8 will enter championship play-offs; no relegation after apertura

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Sep 14: Columbus 2 Houston 2.
Sep 16: Portland 3 New England 0.
Sep 17: Toronto 2 Colorado 1; Chicago 3 Chivas 2; Philadelphia 1 Columbus 0; Dallas 0 New York 1; Houston 2 San Jose 1; Seattle 3 DC United 0; Salt Lake 1 Kansas City 0; Los Angeles 3 Vancouver 0.
Sep 21: DC United 2 Chivas 2; New York 1 Salt Lake 3; Portland 1 San Jose 1.
Sep 23: Kansas City 1 Philadelphia 1.
Sep 24: Dallas 0 Houston 1; New York 2 Portland 0; DC United 4 Salt Lake 1; Columbus 0 Los Angeles 1; Colorado 1 San Jose 1; Vancouver 1 Seattle 3; Chivas 3 Toronto 0.
Sep 25: Chicago 3 New England 2.
Sep 28: Kansas City 2 Columbus 1; Salt Lake 0 Chicago 3.
Sep 29: Philadelphia 3 DC United 2.
Oct 1: Houston 1 Chicago 1; New England 1 Seattle 2; Toronto 1 New York 1; Colorado 1 Dallas 0; Los Angeles 2 Salt Lake 1; San Jose 1 Kansas City 1.
Oct 2: Columbus 2 DC United 1; Vancouver 0 Portland 1; Chivas 1 Philadelphia 1.
Oct 4: New York 2 Los Angeles 0.
Oct 6: Vancouver 3 Salt Lake 0.

USA – REGULAR – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	32	11	12	9	47	40	45
Philadelphia	31	10	14	7	41	34	44
Columbus	32	12	8	12	38	41	44
New York	32	9	16	7	49	42	43
Houston	32	10	13	9	40	40	43
DC United	30	9	11	10	46	46	38
Chicago	31	7	16	8	40	40	37
Toronto	32	6	13	13	33	56	31
New England	31	5	12	14	35	51	27

USA – REGULAR – WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles	32	18	10	4	46	25	64
Seattle	31	16	9	6	51	33	57
Salt Lake	32	15	6	11	43	35	51
Dallas	31	13	7	11	36	34	46
Colorado	32	11	12	9	42	40	45
Portland	31	11	7	13	38	44	40
Chivas	32	8	12	12	40	39	36
San Jose	31	6	14	11	33	40	32
Vancouver	31	5	10	16	32	50	25

34-round regular season (17x2); top 3 in each conference will enter championship play-offs automatically, the other 4 teams with most points – regardless of conference – will meet in 2 head-to-head ties, the winners of which will also enter championship play-offs; no relegation from this league

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 18: Enyimba (Nga) 2 Cotonsport (Cam) 0; Raja Casablanca (Mor) 0 Al Hilal (Sud) 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enyimba (Q)	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
Al Hilal (Q)	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Cotonsport	6	2	1	3	7	8	7
Raja	6	0	3	3	1	5	3

Group B

Sep 16: Al Ahly (Egy) 1 Esperance (Tun) 1; Mouloudia (Alg) 3 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance (Q)	6	2	4	0	9	4	10
Wydad (Q)	6	1	4	1	11	9	7
Al Ahly	6	1	4	1	7	6	7
Mouloudia	6	1	2	3	4	12	5

Top 2 in both groups qualified for semi-finals

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 14; 2nd legs - Sep 27/28

Al Ittihad (Sau) v Seoul (SKo) 3-1, 0-1 (agg 3-2); Cerezo Osaka (Jap) v Jeonbuk Motors (SKo) 4-3, 1-6 (agg 5-9); Sepahan (Irn) v Al Sadd (Qat) 0-3, 2-1 (agg 2-4); Suwon Bluewings (SKo) v Zob Ahan (Irn) 1-1, 2-1 (aet) (agg 3-2)

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 13; 2nd legs - Sep 27/28

Al Wehdat (Jor) v Duhok (Irq) 5-1, 3-0 (agg 8-1); Chonburi (Tha) v Nasaf (Uzb) 0-1, 1-0 (agg 1-1, Nasaf 4-3 on pens); Kuwait SC (Kuw) v Muangthong United (Tha) 1-0, 0-0 (agg 1-0); Persipura Jayapura (Ins) v Arbil (Irq) 1-2, 0-1 (agg 1-3)

JAPAN

Sep 17: Shimizu 1 Urawa 0; Ventforet 2 Avispa 1; Vegalta 2 Albirex 0; Montedio 0 Kawasaki 1; Vissel 0 Kashiwa 4; Sanfrecce 3 Jubilo 1.
Sep 18: Yokohama 1 Gamba 1; Kashima 1 Nagoya 1; Omiya 0 Cerezo 0.
Sep 23: Nagoya 3 Vissel 1; Cerezo 6 Montedio 0.
Sep 24: Yokohama 1 Vegalta 3; Kashima 0 Urawa 0; Gamba 0 Ventforet 2; Jubilo 1 Albirex 0; Kawasaki 1 Shimizu 1.
Sep 25: Kashiwa 1 Omiya 3; Avispa 2 Sanfrecce 1.
Oct 1: Ventforet 0 Kawasaki 1; Montedio 1 Jubilo 1; Sanfrecce 1 Vissel 0; Albirex 4 Yokohama 2; Omiya 0 Avispa 2.
Oct 2: Kashima 0 Kashiwa 1; Vegalta 2 Cerezo 1; Shimizu 2 Nagoya 0; Gamba 1 Urawa 0.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gamba	28	17	6	5	65	44	57
Kashiwa	28	18	2	8	51	38	56
Nagoya	28	15	8	5	51	31	53
Yokohama	28	15	6	7	40	30	51
Vegalta	28	12	11	5	34	24	47
Sanfrecce	28	12	6	10	41	39	42
Kashima	28	11	8	9	45	35	41
Shimizu	28	10	10	8	34	40	40
Jubilo	28	10	8	10	44	34	38
Kawasaki	28	11	4	13	44	46	37
Cerezo	28	9	9	10	54	41	36
Vissel	28	10	5	13	34	40	35
Albirex	28	8	8	12	31	34	32
Omiya	28	7	11	10	28	39	32
Urawa	28	6	11	11	31	34	29
Ventforet	28	7	6	15	32	53	27
Montedio	28	5	6	17	22	45	21
Avispa	28	5	3	20	24	58	18

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions (R) = relegated (Q) = qualified

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

November 1 and 2
UEFA Champions League group games
November 3
Europa League group games
November 4,5 or 6
CAF Champions League Final, first leg
November 5
AFC Champions League Final
November 11 and 12
European Championship play-offs, first leg
November 11, 12 or 13
CAF Champions League Final, second leg
November 15
European Championship play-offs, second leg
November 18, 19 or 20
CAF Confederations Cup Final, first leg
November 20
MLS Cup Final
November 22 and 23
UEFA Champions League group games
November 26 to December 10
CAF Under-23 Championship
November 30 and December 1
Europa League group games

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SQUADS: FRANCE LIGUE 1 2011-12

AJACCIO

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Thierry DEBES	13.01.74
30	David OBERHAUSER	29.11.89
1	Guillermo OCHOA (Mex)	13.07.85
DEFENDERS		
26	Samuel BOUHOURS	26.06.87
5	Mickael CHARVET	31.03.88
27	Remi CILIA	11.09.89
22	Fousseni DIAWARA	28.08.80
20	Anthony LIPPINI	07.11.88
23	Arnaud MAIRE	06.03.79
6	Carl MEDJANI (Alg)	15.05.85
3	Jackson MENDY (Sen)	25.05.87
4	Leyti N'DIAYE (Sen)	19.08.85
17	Yoann POULARD	01.07.76
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Benjamin ANORE	03.08.90
18	Johan CAVALLI	12.09.81
10	Christian KINKELA (DRC)	25.05.82
19	Paul LASNE	16.01.89
14	Mehdi MOSTEFA	30.08.83
8	Jean-Baptiste PIERAZZI	17.06.85
24	Damien TIBERI	23.08.85
FORWARDS		
13	Fabrice BEGEORGI	20.04.87
9	Andy DELORT	09.10.91
11	Karim EL HANY	12.01.88
25	ILAN (Bra)	18.09.80
12	Frederic SAMMARITANO	23.03.86
21	Richard SOCRIER	28.03.79
COACH		
	Olivier PANTALONI	13.12.66

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Simon PONTDEME	04.05.88
1	Olivier SORIN	16.04.81
DEFENDERS		
23	Jeremy BERTHOD	24.04.84
3	Willy BOLY	03.02.91
6	Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
4	Stephane GRICHTING (Swi)	30.03.79
2	Cedric HENGBART	13.07.80
28	Amara KALLE (Mli)	19.09.90
20	Amadou SIDIBE (Mli)	19.02.86
MIDFIELDERS		
26	Vincent ACAPANDIE	09.02.90
7	Kamel CHAFNI (Mor)	11.06.82
33	Kevin CHATELAIN	16.02.94
21	Edouard CISSE	30.03.78
5	Dariusz DUDKA (Pol)	09.12.83
9	Rudy HADDAD	05.02.85
25	Omar KOSSOKO	10.03.88
32	Souahilo MEITE	17.03.94
13	Christopher MISSILOU	18.07.92
29	Delvin NDINGA (Con)	03.04.88
22	Prince SEGBEFIA (Tog)	11.03.91
27	Alain TRAORE (BuF)	31.12.88
FORWARDS		
18	Roy CONTOUT	11.02.85
15	Yonathan DEL VALLE (Ven)	28.05.90
31	Sebastien HALLER	22.06.94
17	Issam JEMAA (Tun)	28.01.84
8	Anthony LE TALLEC	03.10.84
10	Alexandre LICATA	02.01.84
36	Paul-Georges NTAP	29.07.92
14	Dennis OLIECH (Ken)	02.02.85
11	Ben SAHAR (Isr)	10.08.89
19	Yaya SANOGO	27.01.93
COACH		
	Laurent FOURNIER	14.09.64

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Cedric CARRASSO	30.12.81
40	Azbe JUG (Sln)	03.03.92
1	Abdoulaye KEITA	16.08.90
30	Kevin OLIMPA	10.03.88
DEFENDERS		
21	Mathieu CHALME	07.10.80
2	Michael CIANI	06.04.84
3	HENRIQUE (Bra)	02.05.83
23	Florian MARANGE	03.03.86
27	Marc PLANUS	07.03.82
6	Ludovic SANE (Sen)	22.03.87
15	Vujadin SAVIC (Ser)	01.07.90
28	Benoit TREMOULINAS	28.12.85
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Fahid BEN KHALFALLAH	09.10.82
17	Andre BIYOGO POKO (Gab)	01.01.93
10	JUSSIE (Bra)	19.09.83
31	Grzegorz KRYCHOWIAK (Pol)	29.01.90
19	Nicolas MAURICE-BELAY	19.04.85
7	Landry N'GUEMO (Cam)	28.11.85
18	Jaroslav PLASIL (CzR)	05.01.82
26	Gregory SERTIC	05.08.89
24	Abdou TRAORE (Mli)	17.01.88
FORWARDS		
11	David BELLION	27.11.82
14	Cheikh DIABATE (Mli)	25.04.88
9	Yoan GOUFFRAN	25.05.86
22	Anthony MODESTE	14.04.88
20	Henri SAIVET	26.10.90
32	Emiliano SALA (Arg)	31.10.90
COACH		
	Francis GILLOT	09.02.60

BREST

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Lionel CAPPONE	08.02.79
1	Steeve ELANA	11.07.80
30	Joan HARTOCK	17.02.87
DEFENDERS		
12	Paul BAYSSE	15.05.88
18	Moise BROU APANGA (Gab)	04.02.82
22	Ousmane COULIBALY	09.07.89
25	Omar DAF (Sen)	12.02.77
21	Brahim FERRADJ (Alg)	04.09.87
17	Santiago GENTILETTI (Arg)	09.01.85
24	Ahmed KANTARI (Mor)	28.06.85
29	Gregory LORENZI	17.12.83
3	Tripy MAKONDA	24.01.90
4	Johan MARTIAL	30.05.91
8	Jonathan ZEBINA	19.07.78
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Yoann BIGNE	23.08.77
2	John Jairo CULMA (Col)	17.03.81
5	Oscar EWOLO (Con)	09.10.78
6	Bruno GROUGI	26.04.83
28	Diallo GUIDILEYE	30.12.89
19	Benoit LESOIMIER	21.02.83
27	Mario LICKA (CzR)	30.04.82
11	Richard SOUMAH	06.10.86
FORWARDS		
7	Jonathan AYITE (Tog)	22.07.85
9	Eden BEN BASAT (Isr)	08.09.86
15	Tomas MICOLA (CzR)	26.09.88
20	Romain POYET	25.11.80
26	Nolan ROUX	01.03.88
10	Larsen TOURE	20.07.84
COACH		
	Alex DUPONT	30.06.54

CAEN

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Thomas BOSMEL	18.04.88
16	Damien PERQUIS	06.03.86
1	Alexis THEBAUX	17.03.85
DEFENDERS		
5	Thomas HEURTAUX	03.07.88
6	Branko LAZAREVIC (Ser)	14.05.84
24	Gregory LECA	22.08.80
2	Nicolas SEUBE	11.08.79
19	Jeremy SORBON	05.08.83
23	Gregory TAFFOREAU	29.09.76
14	Jerry VANDAM	06.12.88
4	Molla WAGUE	21.02.91
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Frederic BULOT	27.09.90
7	Anthony DEROIN	15.03.79
13	Emeric DUDOUIT	07.09.91
29	Faycal FAJR (Mor)	01.08.88
20	Romain HAMOUMA	29.03.87
3	Yannick M'BONE (Cam)	16.04.93
10	Benjamin NIVET	02.01.77
12	Gregory PROMENT	10.12.78
22	Alexandre RAINEAU	21.06.86
26	Ibrahima TANDIA	12.07.93
FORWARDS		
11	Pierre-Alain FRAU	15.04.80
28	Benjamin MOREL	10.06.87
21	Livio NABAB	14.06.88
15	Lenny NANGIS	24.03.94
9	Mbaye NIANG	19.12.94
18	Kandia TRAORE (IvC)	05.07.80
COACH		
	Franck DUMAS	09.01.66

DIJON

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Jean-Daniel PADOVANI	17.01.80
34	Lucas PASSONI	08.08.90
30	Baptiste REYNET	28.10.90
16	Baba TCHAGOUNI (Tog)	31.12.90
DEFENDERS		
15	Abdoulaye BAMBA (IvC)	25.04.90
6	Zakaria DIALLO	13.08.86
31	Damien MARCQ	08.12.88
4	Abdoulaye MEITE (IvC)	06.10.80
25	Steven PAULLE	10.02.86
19	Samuel SOUPRAYEN	18.02.89
27	Cedric VARRAULT	30.01.80
14	Chaher ZAROUR	14.03.83
5	Alexis ZYWIECKI	10.04.84
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Sanaa ALTAMA	23.07.90
23	Sekou BARADJI	24.04.84
11	Eric BAUTHEAC	24.08.87
29	Florin BERENGUER	01.04.89
20	Benjamin CORGNET	06.04.87
17	Thomas GUERBERT	06.04.89
12	Mickael ISABEY	20.02.75
26	Lesly MALOUDA	16.11.83
28	Daisuke MATSUI (Jap)	11.05.81
8	Younousse SANKHARE	10.09.89
FORWARDS		
22	Mehdi COURGNAUD	21.11.90
21	Christopher JOUFFREAU	14.04.92
9	Brice JOVIAL	25.01.84
7	Christophe MANDANNE	07.02.85
10	Gregory THIL	15.03.80
COACH		
	Patrice CARTERON	30.07.70

EVIAN

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Stephan ANDERSEN (Den)	26.11.81
1	Johann DURAND	17.06.81
16	Bertrand LAQUAIT	13.04.77
40	Quentin WESTBERG (USA)	25.04.86
DEFENDERS		
17	Aldo ANGOULA	04.05.81
15	Sasa CILINSEK (Ser)	28.01.82
26	Brice DJA DJEDJE (IvC)	23.12.90
25	Jonathan MENSAH (Gha)	13.07.90
21	Cedric MONGONGU (DRC)	22.06.89
3	Guillaume RIPPERT	30.04.85
5	Felipe SAAD (Bra)	11.09.83
18	Daniel WASS (Den)	31.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
14	Cedric BARBOSA	06.03.76
22	Cedric CAMBON	20.09.86
28	Fabrice EHRET (Swi)	28.09.79
23	Nicolas FARINA	09.08.86
19	Guillaume LACOUR	02.08.80
6	Jerome LEROY	04.11.74
12	Christian POULSEN (Den)	28.02.80
2	Mohammed RABIU (Gha)	31.12.89
24	Olivier SORLIN	09.04.79
4	Eric TIE BI (IvC)	20.07.90
FORWARDS		
27	Youssef ADNANE	16.07.85
9	Kevin BERIGAUD	03.03.84
10	Herve BUGNET	24.08.81
8	Sidney GOVOU	27.07.79
29	Saber KHELIFA (Tun)	14.10.86
7	Ali M'MADI (Com)	21.04.90
20	Yannick SAGBO (IvC)	12.04.88
COACH		
	Bernard CASONI	04.09.61

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Vincent ENYEAMA (Nga)	29.08.82
1	Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79
30	Barel MOUKO (Con)	05.04.79
40	Alexandre OUKIDJA	19.07.88
DEFENDERS		
25	Marko BASA (Mne)	29.12.82
18	Franck BERIA	23.05.83
21	Laurent BONNART	25.12.79
22	Aurelien CHEDJOU (Cam)	20.06.85
2	Mathieu DEBUCHY	28.07.85
3	Lucas DIGNE	20.07.93
14	David ROZEHNAL (CzR)	05.07.80
6	Pape N'Diaye SOUARE (Sen)	06.06.90
13	Adama SOUMAORO (IvC)	18.06.92
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
26	Joe COLE (Eng)	08.11.81
5	Idrissa GUEYE (Sen)	26.09.89
10	Eden HAZARD (Blg)	07.01.91
24	Rio Antonio MAVUBA	08.03.84
11	Ludovic OBRANIAK (Pol)	10.11.84
17	Benoit PEDRETTI	12.11.80
FORWARDS		
19	Gianni BRUNO (Blg)	19.08.91
9	Tulio DE MELO (Bra)	31.01.85
27	Ireneusz JELEN (Pol)	09.04.81
7	Dimitri PAYET	29.03.87
20	Ronny RODELIN	18.11.89
8	Moussa SOW (Sen)	19.01.86
12	Omar WADE (Sen)	15.05.90
COACH		
	Rudi GARCIA	20.02.64

LORIENT

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Fabien AUDARD	28.03.78
30	Florent CHAIGNEAU	21.03.84
1	Benjamin LECOMTE	26.04.91
DEFENDERS		
17	Maxime BACA	02.06.83
6	Gregory BOURILLON	01.07.84
5	Bruno ECUELE MANGA (Gab)	16.07.88
2	Lamine KONE	01.02.89
14	Arnaud LE LAN	22.03.78
12	Lucas MAREQUE (Arg)	12.01.83
3	PEDRINHO (Por)	06.03.85
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Mathias AUTRET	01.03.91
28	Maxime BARTHELME	08.09.88
10	Mathieu COUTADEUR	20.06.86
11	Sigamary DIARRA (Mli)	10.01.84
21	Cheick DOUKOURE	11.09.92
22	Kevin MONNET-PAQUET	19.08.88
26	Remi MULUMBA	02.11.92
7	Arnold MVUEMBA	28.01.85
25	Gabriel PENALBA (Arg)	23.09.84
4	Alaixys ROMAO (Tog)	18.01.84
24	Adama TOURE (Mli)	28.08.91
FORWARDS		
15	Jeremie ALIADIERE	30.03.83
36	Joel CAMPBELL (CR)	26.06.92
19	Tristan DO	31.01.93
20	Sebastian DUBARBIER (Arg)	19.02.86
9	Innocent EMEGHARA (Swi)	27.05.89
8	Yann JOUFFRE	23.07.84
27	Julien QUERCIA	17.08.86
29	Fabien ROBERT	06.01.89
18	Gilles SUNU	30.03.91
COACH		
	Christian GOURCUFF	05.04.55

LYON

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Hugo LLORIS	26.12.86
30	Remy VERCOUTRE	26.06.80
DEFENDERS		
20	Aly CISSOKHO	15.09.87
3	CRIS (Bra)	03.06.77
14	Mouhamadou DABO (Sen)	28.11.86
36	Sebastien FAURE	03.01.91
37	Thomas FONTAINE	08.05.91
2	Lamine GASSAMA (Sen)	20.10.89
12	Timothee KOLODZIEJCZAK	01.10.91
4	Bakari KONE (BuF)	27.04.88
5	Dejan LOVREN (Cro)	05.07.89
26	John MENSAH (Gha)	29.11.82
13	Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
35	Nicolas SEGUIN	06.03.90
43	Samuel UMTITI	14.11.93
MIDFIELDERS		
10	EDERSON (Bra)	13.01.86
15	Gueida FOFANA	16.05.91
21	Maxime GONALONS	10.03.89
29	Yoann GOURCUFF	11.07.86
7	Clement GRENIER	07.01.91
6	Kim KALLSTROM (Swe)	24.08.82
22	Sidy KONE (Mli)	06.06.92
11	MICHEL BASTOS (Bra)	02.08.83
FORWARDS		
39	Ishak BELFODIL (Alg)	12.01.92
19	Jimmy BRIAND	02.05.85
18	Bafetibis GOMIS	06.08.85
17	Alexandre LACAZETTE	28.05.91
9	LISANDRO LOPEZ (Arg)	02.03.83
24	Jeremy PIED	23.02.89
27	Yannis TAFER	11.02.91
COACH		
	Remi GARDE	03.04.66

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Elinton ANDRADE (Bra)	30.03.79
1	Gennaro BRACIGLIANO	01.03.80
30	Steve MANDANDA	28.03.85
DEFENDERS		
2	Cesar AZPILICUETA (Spa)	28.08.89
21	Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
24	Rod FANNI	06.12.81
15	Jeremy MOREL	02.04.84
3	Nicolas NKOULOU (Cam)	27.03.90
13	Djimi TRAORE (Mli)	01.03.80
26	Jean-Philippe SABO	26.02.87
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Morgan AMALFITANO	20.03.85
20	Andre AYEW (Gha)	17.12.89
7	Benoit CHEYROU	03.05.81
4	Alou DIARRA	15.07.81
8	LUCHO GONZALEZ (Arg)	19.01.81
12	Charles KABORE (BuF)	09.02.88
17	Stephane MBIA (Cam)	20.05.86
28	Mathieu VALBUENA	28.09.84
FORWARDS		
23	Jordan AYEW (Gha)	11.09.91
10	Andre-Pierre GIGNAC	12.05.85
25	Billel OMRANI	02.06.93
11	Loic REMY	02.01.87
COACH		
	Didier DESCHAMPS	15.10.68

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Geoffrey JOURDREN	04.02.86
30	Jonathan LIGALI	28.05.91
1	Laurent PIONNIER	24.05.82
40	Baptiste VALETTE	01.09.92
DEFENDERS		
5	Henri BEDIMO (Cam)	04.06.84
2	Garry BOCALY	19.04.88
25	Mathieu DEPLAGNE	01.10.91
34	Nenad DZODIC (Ser)	04.01.77
21	Abdelhamid EL KAOUTAR (Mor)	17.03.90
4	HILTON (Bra)	13.09.77
27	Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
31	Teddy MEZAGUE	27.05.90
22	Benjamin STAMBOULI	13.06.90
3	Mapou YANGA-M'BIWA	15.05.89
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Karim AIT-FANA	25.02.89
10	Younes BELHANDA (Mor)	25.02.90
20	Remy CABELLA	08.03.90
13	Marco ESTRADA (Chl)	28.05.83
11	Gregory LACOMBE	11.01.82
28	Jonas MARTIN	09.04.90
6	Joris MARVEAUX	15.08.82
14	Romain PITAU	08.08.77
23	Jamel SAIHI (Tun)	27.01.87
15	Jonathan TINHAN	01.06.89
FORWARDS		
19	Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)	22.12.82
12	Geoffrey DERNIS	24.12.80
17	Olivier GIROUD	30.09.86
9	Hasan KABZE (Tur)	26.05.82
24	Bengadli Fode KOITA	21.10.90
7	John UTAKA (Nga)	08.01.82
COACH		
	Rene GIRARD	04.04.54

NANCY

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Damien GREGORINI	02.03.79
1	Guy NDY ASSEMBE (Cam)	28.02.86
30	Remi PILLOT	27.07.90
DEFENDERS		
5	ANDRE LUIZ (Bra)	27.01.80
13	Jean CALVE	30.04.84
17	Massadio HAIDARA (Sen)	02.12.92
2	HELDER (Bra)	13.04.88
25	Reynald LEMAITRE	28.06.83
4	Jordan LOTIES	05.08.84
6	Thomas MANGANI	29.04.87
3	Joel SAMI (DRC)	13.11.84
26	Salif SANE	25.08.90
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Jonathan BRISON	07.02.83
7	Aatif CHAHECHOUHE	02.07.86
22	Alexandre CUVILLIER	17.06.86
21	Samba DIAKITE	24.01.89
18	Lossemy KARABOUE	18.03.88
8	Fouad RACHID	15.11.91
12	Bakaye TRAORE (Mli)	06.03.85
FORWARDS		
14	Paul ALO'O EFOULOU (Cam)	12.11.83
11	Djamel BAKAR	06.04.89
10	Benjamin JEANNOT	22.01.92
9	Benjamin MOUKANDJO (Cam)	12.11.88
20	Daniel NICULAE (Rom)	06.10.82
24	Distel ZOLA	05.02.89
COACH		
	Jean FERNANDEZ	08.10.54

NICE

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Raul FERNANDEZ (Per)	06.10.85
1	David OSPINA (Col)	31.08.88
30	Lucas VERONESE	06.02.91
DEFENDERS		
2	Renato CIVELLI (Arg)	14.10.83
29	Francois CLERC	18.04.83
23	Drissa DIAKITE (Mli)	18.02.85
5	Kevin GOMIS	20.01.89
25	Larrys MABIALA	08.09.87
18	Fabian MONZON (Arg)	13.04.87
4	Nemanja PEJCINOVIC (Ser)	04.11.87
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Fabrice ABRIEL	06.07.79
15	Kafoumba COULIBALY (IvC)	26.10.85
6	Didier DIGARD	12.07.86
14	Emerse FAE (IvC)	24.01.84
8	David HELLEBUYCK	12.05.79
33	Cyril HENNION	03.01.92
22	Kevin MALAGA	24.06.87
10	Camel MERIEM	18.10.79
26	Anthony MOUNIER	27.09.87
21	Lloyd PALUN (Gab)	28.11.88
27	Julien SABLE	11.09.80
FORWARDS		
19	Franck DJA DJEDJE (IvC)	02.06.86
24	Esmael GONCALVES (Por)	25.06.91
20	Abraham GUIE GNEKI (IvC)	25.07.86
11	Eric MOULOUNGUI (Gab)	01.04.84
9	Xavier PENTECOTE	13.08.86
COACH		
	Eric ROY	26.09.67

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Alphonse AREOLA	27.02.93
1	Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
30	Salvatore SIRIGU (Ita)	12.01.87
DEFENDERS		
22	Sylvain ARMAND	01.08.80
4	Milan BISEVAC (Ser)	31.08.83
6	Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
2	CEARA (Bra)	16.06.80
26	Christophe JALLET	31.10.83
28	Loick LANDRE	05.05.92
15	Diego LUGANO (Uru)	02.11.80
3	Mamadou SAKHO	13.02.90
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Mathieu BODMER	22.11.82
20	Clement CHANTOME	11.09.87
29	Neeskens KEBANO	10.03.92
14	Blaise MATUIDI	09.04.87
10	NENE (Bra)	19.07.81
27	Javier PASTORE (Arg)	20.06.89
23	Mohamed SISSOKO (Mli)	22.01.85
5	Siake TIENE (IvC)	22.02.82
FORWARDS		
18	Loris ARNAUD	16.04.87
25	Jean-Christophe BAHEBECK	01.05.93
11	Mevlut ERDINC (Tur)	25.02.87
19	Kevin GAMEIRO	09.04.87
9	Guillaume HOARAU	05.03.84
8	Peguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
7	Jeremy MENEZ	07.05.87
COACH		
	Antoine KOMBOUARE	16.11.63

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Benoit COSTIL	03.07.87
16	Abdoulaye DIALLO	30.03.92
30	Cheikh N'DIAYE (Sen)	15.02.85
DEFENDERS		
4	Onyekachi APAM (Nga)	30.12.85
25	John BOYE (Gha)	23.04.87
29	Romain DANZE	03.07.86
24	Dimitri FOULQUIER	23.03.93
22	Yassine JEBBOUR	24.08.91
15	Jean-Armel KANA-BIYIK	03.07.89
5	Kader MANGANE (Sen)	23.03.83
3	Chris MAVINGA	26.05.91
2	Kevin THEOPHILE-CATHERINE	28.10.89
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Yacine BRAHIMI	08.02.90
10	Stephane DALMAT	16.02.79
28	Tongo Hamed DOUMBIA	06.08.89
8	Julien FERET	05.07.82
19	Youssouf HADJI (Mor)	25.02.80
23	Kamal ISSAH (Gha)	30.08.92
14	Georges MANDJECK (Cam)	09.12.88
17	Yann MVILA	29.06.90
26	Vincent PAJOT	19.06.90
6	Alexander TETTEY (Nor)	04.04.86
FORWARDS		
12	Abdoulrazak BOUKARI (Tog)	25.04.87
11	Jires KEMBO-EKOKO	08.01.88
21	Victor Hugo MONTANO (Col)	01.05.84
7	Jonathan PITROIPA (BuF)	12.04.86
COACH		
	Frederic ANTONETTI	19.08.61

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Abdoulaye COULIBALY (Sen)	02.03.88
16	Jeremie JANOT	11.10.77
1	Stephane RUFFIER	27.09.86
DEFENDERS		
15	Yoann ANDREU	03.05.89
22	Moustapha BAYAL SALL (Sen)	30.11.85
23	Albin EBONDO	23.02.84
13	Faouzi GHOULAM	01.02.91
18	Fabien LEMOINE	16.03.87
5	Sylvain MARCHAL	10.02.80
12	Jean-Pascal MIGNOT	26.02.81
6	Sylvain MONSOREAU	20.03.81
27	Loris NERY	05.02.91
2	PAULAO (Bra)	06.05.82
31	Kurt ZOUMA	27.10.94
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Alejandro ALONSO (Arg)	03.03.82
10	Laurent BATLLES	23.09.75
11	Jeremy CLEMENT	26.08.84
9	Max GRADEL (IvC)	30.11.87
19	Josua GUILAVOGUI	19.09.90
25	Banel NICOLITA (Rom)	07.01.85
24	Loic PERRIN	07.08.85
26	Bakary SAKO	24.04.88
FORWARDS		
7	Pierre-Emerick AUBAMEYANG (Gab)	18.06.89
29	Lynel KITAMBALA	26.10.88
21	Yoric RAVET	09.12.89
17	Idriss SAADI	08.02.92
14	Florent SINAMA-PONGOLLE	20.10.84
COACH		
	Christophe GALTIER	28.08.66

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Papa Demba CAMARA (Sen)	16.01.93
1	Pierrick CROS	23.06.91
16	Teddy RICHERT	21.09.74
DEFENDERS		
13	Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
2	Sebastien CORCHIA	01.11.90
11	Yassin MIKARI (Tun)	09.01.83
19	Steven MOUYOKOLO	24.01.87
24	Damien PERQUIS (Pol)	10.04.84
29	Mathieu PEYBERNES	21.10.90
23	David SAUGET	23.11.79
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Kevin ANIN	05.07.86
10	Ryad BOUDEBOUZ (Alg)	19.02.90
5	CARLAO (Bra)	19.01.86
14	Marvin MARTIN	10.06.88
21	Vincent NOGUEIRA	16.01.86
27	Loic POUJOL	27.02.89
18	Sebastien ROUDET	16.06.81
FORWARDS		
22	Cedric BAKAMBU	11.04.91
20	Edouard BUTIN	16.06.88
8	Abdoul Razzagui CAMARA	20.02.90
7	Rafael DIAS (Por)	29.01.91
15	Modibo MAIGA (Mli)	03.09.86
9	Sloan PRIVAT	24.07.89
COACH		
	Mehmed BAZDAREVIC (Bos)	28.09.60

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS		
40	Ali AHAMADA	19.08.91
30	Yohann PELE	04.11.82
1	Remy RIOU	06.08.87
16	Marc VIDAL	03.06.91
DEFENDERS		
23	Aymen ABDENNOUR (Tun)	06.08.89
3	Daniel CONGRE	05.04.85
15	Mickael FIRMIN	21.09.90
2	Mohamed FOFANA	07.03.85
12	Cheikh M'BENGUE (Sen)	23.07.88
24	Pavle NINKOV (Ser)	20.04.85
MIDFIELDERS		
34	Jean-Daniel AKPA AKPRO	11.10.92
26	Wissam BEN YEDDER	12.08.90
25	Daniel BRAATEN (Nor)	25.05.82
33	Hendrick CAKIN	06.01.92
29	Etienne CAPOUE	11.07.88
6	Antoine DEVAUX	21.02.85
8	Etienne DIDOT	24.07.83
5	Paulo MACHADO (Por)	31.03.86
17	Adrien REGATTIN	22.08.91
14	Francois SIRIEIX	07.10.80
22	Moussa SISSOKO	16.08.89
10	Franck TABANOU	30.01.89
FORWARDS		
7	Umut BULUT (Tur)	15.03.83
9	Emmanuel RIVIERE	03.03.90
35	Amadou SOUKOUNA	21.06.92
COACH		
	Alain CASANOVA	15.10.61

VALENCIENNES

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Arnaud BROCARD	19.08.86
16	Jean-Louis LECA	21.09.85
1	Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81
DEFENDERS		
20	Benjamin ANGOUA (IvC)	28.11.86
24	Gaetan BONG (Cam)	25.04.88
2	David DUCOURTIOUX	11.04.78
4	GIL (Bra)	12.06.87
15	Nicolas ISIMAT-MIRIN	15.11.91
18	Kenny LALA	03.10.91
25	Rudy MATER	13.10.80
3	Chris MFUYI-NZAY (DRC)	03.07.89
5	Rafael SCHMITZ (Bra)	17.12.80
13	Mody TRAORE	14.07.80
MIDFIELDERS		
26	Renaud COHADE	29.09.64
8	Gael DANIC	19.11.81
10	Mathieu DOSSEVI	12.02.88
12	Remi GOMIS	14.02.84
14	Foued KADIR (Alg)	05.12.83
21	Guillaume LORIOT	21.05.86
19	NAM Tae-hee (SKo)	03.07.91
23	Jose SAEZ	07.05.82
6	Carlos SANCHEZ (Col)	06.02.86
FORWARDS		
9	Vincent ABOUBAKAR (Cam)	22.01.92
22	Francis MASSAMPU	26.12.91
28	Gregory PUJOL	25.01.80
27	Mamadou SAMASSA (Mli)	01.05.86
COACH		
	Daniel SANCHEZ	21.11.53

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ATALANTA

GOALKEEPERS		
47	Andrea CONSIGLI	27.01.87
30	Renato FACHERIS	28.08.92
78	Giorgio FREZZOLINI	21.01.76
DEFENDERS		
6	Gianpaolo BELLINI	27.03.80
4	Daniele CAPELLI	20.06.86
32	Michele FERRI	29.05.81
3	Stefano LUCCHINI	02.10.80
5	Thomas MANFREDINI	27.05.80
25	Andrea MASIELLO	05.02.86
13	Federico PELUSO	20.01.84
77	Cristian RAIMONDI	30.04.81
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Giacomo BONAVENTURA	22.08.89
33	Matteo BRIGHI	14.02.81
17	Carlos CARMONA (Chl)	21.02.87
26	Fabio CASERTA	24.09.78
21	Luca CIGARINI	20.06.86
79	FERREIRA PINTO (Bra)	10.12.79
88	Nadir MINOTTI	16.05.92
11	Maxi MORALEZ (Arg)	27.02.87
22	Simone PADOIN	18.03.84
23	Leonardo PETTINARI	23.07.86
7	Matias Ezequiel SCHELOTTO	23.05.89
FORWARDS		
63	Matteo ARDEMAGNI	26.03.87
19	German DENIS (Arg)	10.09.81
28	Manolo GABBIADINI	26.11.91
89	Guido MARILUNGO	09.08.89
90	Simone TIRIBOCCHI	31.01.78
COACH		
	Stefano COLANTUONO	23.10.62

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Federico AGLIARDI	11.02.83
1	Jean-Francois GILLET (Blg)	31.05.79
44	Filippo LOMBARDI	22.04.90
32	Dejan STOJANOVIC (Mac)	19.07.93
DEFENDERS		
5	Mikael ANTONSSON (Swe)	31.05.81
21	Nicolo CHERUBIN	02.12.86
75	Jose Angel CRESPO (Spa)	09.02.87
8	Gyorgy GARICS (Aut)	08.03.84
51	Simone LORIA	28.10.76
3	Archimede MORLEO	26.06.83
90	Daniele PORTANOVA	17.12.78
84	Andrea RAGGI	24.06.84
22	Cesare RICKLER	18.03.87
19	Luigi VITALE	05.10.87
MIDFIELDERS		
16	Federico CASARINI	07.08.89
33	Panagiotis KONE (Gre)	26.07.87
4	Rene KRHIN (Sln)	21.05.90
26	Gaby MUDINGAYI (Blg)	01.10.81
15	Diego PEREZ (Uru)	18.05.80
13	Nico PULZETTI	13.02.84
6	Saphir TAIDER (Fra)	29.02.92
FORWARDS		
99	Robert ACQUAFRESCA	11.09.87
88	Massimo CODA	10.11.88
23	Alessandro DIAMANTI	02.05.83
9	Marco DI VAIO	15.07.76
11	Manuel GAVILAN (Spa)	12.07.91
77	Henry GIMENEZ (Uru)	13.03.86
35	Daniele PAPONI	16.04.88
52	Riccardo PASI	27.08.90
17	Daniele VANTAGGIATO	10.10.84
COACH		
	Stefano PIOLI	19.10.65

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Michael AGAZZI	03.07.84
25	Vlada AVRAMOV (Ser)	05.04.79
12	Marco RUZITTU	15.06.91
DEFENDERS		
31	Alessandro AGOSTINI	23.07.79
3	Lorenzo ARIAUDO	11.06.89
13	Davide ASTORI	07.01.87
21	Michele CANINI	05.06.85
26	Paolo DAMETTO	28.06.93
16	Sebastian ERIKSSON (Swe)	31.01.89
2	Simone GOZZI	13.04.86
29	Nicola MURRU	16.12.94
24	Gabriele PERICO	11.03.84
14	Francesco PISANO	29.04.86
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Davide BIONDINI	24.01.83
15	Salvatore BURRAI	26.05.87
32	Pablo CEPELLINI (Uru)	11.09.91
5	Daniele CONTI	09.01.79
7	Andrea COSSU	30.05.80
20	Albin EKDAL (Swe)	28.07.89
22	Marco MANCOSU	22.08.88
4	Radja NAINGGOLAN (Blg)	04.05.88
30	Rui SAMPAIO (Por)	29.05.87
FORWARDS		
10	Moestafa EL KABIR (Hol)	10.05.88
23	Victor IBARBO (Col)	19.05.90
9	Joaquin LARRIVEY (Arg)	20.08.84
18	NENE (Bra)	28.07.83
19	THIAGO RIBEIRO (Bra)	24.02.86
COACH		
	Massimo FICCADENTI	06.11.67

CATANIA

GOALKEEPERS		
21	Mariano ANDUJAR (Arg)	30.07.83
30	Andrea CAMPAGNOLO	17.06.78
1	Tomas KOSICKY (Slk)	11.03.86
29	Pietro TERRACCIANO	08.03.90
DEFENDERS		
22	Pablo ALVAREZ (Arg)	17.04.84
14	Giuseppe BELLUSCI	21.08.89
33	Ciro CAPUANO	10.07.81
6	Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE	20.10.76
12	Giovanni MARCHESE	17.10.84
5	Mario PAGLIALUNGA (Arg)	29.10.88
2	Alessandro POTENZA	08.03.84
3	Nicolas SPOLLI (Arg)	20.02.83
MIDFIELDERS		
4	Sergio ALMIRON (Arg)	07.11.80
28	Pablo BARRIENTOS (Arg)	17.01.85
27	Marco BIAGIANTI	19.04.84
24	Gennaro DELVECCHIO	25.03.78
17	Alejandro GOMEZ (Arg)	15.02.88
13	Mariano IZCO (Arg)	13.03.83
15	KEKO (Spa)	28.12.91
7	Davide LANZAFAME	09.02.87
8	Pablo LEDESMA (Arg)	04.02.84
16	Cristian LLAMA (Arg)	26.06.86
10	Francesco LODI	23.03.84
19	Adrian RICCHIUTI (Arg)	30.06.78
20	Fabio SCIACCA	16.05.89
FORWARDS		
16	Gonzalo BERGESSIO (Arg)	20.07.84
32	Andrea CATELLANI	26.05.88
34	Alfredo DONNARUMMA	11.03.90
11	MAXI LOPEZ (Arg)	04.03.84
9	David SUAZO (Hnd)	05.11.79
COACH		
	Vincenzo MONTELLA	18.06.74

CESENA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Francesco ANTONIOLI	14.09.69
88	Nicola RAVAGLIA	12.12.88
86	Aldo SIMONCINI (SaM)	30.08.86
DEFENDERS		
28	Yohan BENALOUANE (Fra)	28.03.87
77	Luca CECCARELLI	24.03.83
16	Gianluca COMOTTO	16.10.78
3	Aleksejs GILNICS (Lat)	29.05.93
6	Maurizio LAURO	12.03.81
71	Stefan POPESCU (Rom)	05.05.93
4	Luca RICCI	13.03.89
2	Guillermo RODRIGUEZ (Uru)	21.03.84
13	Marco ROSSI	30.09.87
25	Steve VON BERGEN (Swi)	10.06.83
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Antonio CANDREVA	28.02.87
22	Tibor CICA (Cro)	31.12.93
14	Giuseppe COLUCCI	24.08.80
5	Roberto GUANA	21.01.81
15	MARTINHO (Bra)	22.01.88
9	David MEZA (Par)	15.08.88
18	Marco PAROLO	25.01.85
FORWARDS		
70	Erjon BOGDANI (Alb)	14.04.77
7	EDER (Bra)	19.11.86
32	Abdelkader GHEZZAL (Alg)	05.12.84
29	Marko LIVAJA (Cro)	26.08.93
17	Dominique MALONGA (Fra)	08.01.89
55	Jorge MARTINEZ (Uru)	05.04.83
10	Adrian MUTU (Rom)	08.01.79
11	Vincenzo RENNELLA	08.10.88
COACH		
	Marco GIAMPADLO	02.08.67

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Jacopo COLETTA	19.04.92
17	Christian PUGGIONI	17.01.81
54	Stefano SORRENTINO	28.03.79
18	Lorenzo SQUIZZI	27.06.74
DEFENDERS		
15	Francesco ACERBI	10.08.88
3	Marco ANDREOLLI	10.06.86
12	Bostjan CESAR (Sln)	09.07.82
26	Nestor DJENGOUE (Cam)	26.04.91
93	Boukary DRAME (Sen)	22.07.85
21	Nicolas FREY (Fra)	06.03.84
13	Bojan JOKIC (Sln)	17.05.86
5	Davide MANDELLI	28.06.77
4	Santiago MORERO (Arg)	18.04.82
20	Gennaro SARDO	03.05.79
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Michael BRADLEY (USA)	31.07.87
8	Rinaldo CRUZADO (Per)	21.09.84
11	Marco GALLOZZI	27.07.88
88	Simone GRIPPO (Swi)	12.12.88
56	Perparim HETEMAJ (Fin)	12.12.86
10	LUCIANO (Bra)	03.12.75
16	Luca RIGONI	07.12.84
7	Paolo SAMMARCO	17.03.83
25	Kamil VACEK (CzR)	18.05.87
FORWARDS		
39	Francesco GRANDOLFO	26.07.92
91	Radoslav KIRILOV (Bul)	29.06.92
9	Davide MOSCARDELLI	03.02.80
23	Alberto PALOSCHI	04.01.90
31	Sergio PELLISSIER	12.04.79
77	Cyril THEREAU (Fra)	24.04.83
90	Fernando URIBE (Col)	01.01.88
COACH		
	Domenico DI CARLO	23.03.64

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Artur BORUC (Pol)	20.02.80
89	NETO (Bra)	19.07.89
DEFENDERS		
31	Michele CAMPORESE	19.05.92
16	Mattia CASSANI	26.08.83
29	Lorenzo DE SILVESTRI	23.05.88
19	FELIPE (Bra)	31.07.84
5	Alessandro GAMBERINI	27.08.81
36	Nikola GULAN (Ser)	23.03.89
2	Per KROLDRUP (Den)	31.07.79
15	Matija NASTASIC (Ser)	28.03.93
14	Cesare NATALI	05.04.79
23	Manuel PASQUAL	13.03.82
92	ROMULO (Bra)	22.05.87
MIDFIELDERS		
25	Daniel Kofi AGYEI (Gha)	01.01.92
85	Valon BEHRAMI (Swi)	19.04.85
13	Houssine KHARJA (Mor)	09.11.82
21	Andrea LAZZARI	03.12.84
22	Adem LJAJIC (Ser)	29.09.91
32	Marco MARCHIONNI	22.07.80
18	Riccardo MONTOLIVO	18.01.85
20	Gianni MUNARI	24.06.83
28	Marco ROMIZI	13.02.90
17	Amidu SALIFU (Gha)	20.09.92
6	Juan Manuel VARGAS (Per)	05.10.83
FORWARDS		
37	Maxwell Boadu ACOSTY (Gha)	10.09.91
9	Khouma BABACAR (Sen)	17.03.93
7	Alessio CERCI	23.07.87
11	Alberto GILARDINO	05.07.82
8	Stevan JOVETIC (Mne)	02.11.89
26	Ryder MATOS (Bra)	27.02.93
10	Santiago SILVA (Uru)	09.12.80
COACH		
	Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Ser)	20.02.69

GENOA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Sebastien FREY (Fra)	18.03.80
22	Cristiano LUPATELLI	21.06.78
73	Alessio SCARPI	19.04.73
DEFENDERS		
23	Luca ANTONELLI	11.02.87
21	Cesare BOVO	14.01.83
3	Dario DAINELLI	06.09.79
5	Andreas GRANQVIST (Swe)	16.04.85
13	Kakha KALADZE (Geo)	27.02.78
24	Emiliano MORETTI	11.06.81
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Valter BIRSA (Sln)	07.08.86
27	Kevin CONSTANT (Gui)	15.05.87
11	Bosko JANKOVIC (Ser)	01.03.84
19	Cristobal JORQUERA (Chl)	06.04.88
33	Juraj KUCKA (Slk)	26.02.87
52	Alexander MERKEL (Ger)	22.02.92
20	Giandomenico MESTO	25.05.82
7	Marco ROSSI	01.04.78
14	Felipe SEYMOUR (Chl)	23.07.87
93	Stefano STURARO	09.03.93
4	Miguel VELOSO (Por)	11.05.86
FORWARDS		
99	Andrea CARACCIOLO	18.09.81
8	Rodrigo PALACIO (Arg)	05.02.82
2	Lucas PRATTO (Arg)	04.06.88
39	Sebastian RIBAS (Uru)	11.03.88
9	ZE EDUARDO (Bra)	29.10.87
COACH		
	Alberto MALESANI	05.06.54

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS		
12	Luca CASTELLAZZI	19.07.75
1	JULIO CESAR (Bra)	03.09.79
21	Paolo ORLANDONI	12.08.72
33	Emiliano VIVIANO	01.12.85
DEFENDERS		
44	Matteo BIANCHETTI	17.03.93
16	Luca CALDIROLA	01.02.91
26	Christian CHIVU (Rom)	26.10.80
2	Ivan CORDOBA (Col)	11.08.76
37	Marco FARAONI	25.10.91
42	JONATHAN (Bra)	27.02.86
6	LUCIO (Bra)	08.05.78
13	MAICON (Bra)	26.07.81
55	Yuto NAGATOMO (Jap)	12.09.86
23	Andrea RANOCCHIA	16.02.88
25	Walter SAMUEL (Arg)	23.03.78
4	Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	10.08.73
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Ricardo ALVAREZ (Arg)	12.04.88
19	Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)	18.08.80
29	Philippe COUTINHO (Bra)	12.06.92
48	Lorenzo CRISETIG	20.01.93
8	Thiago MOTTA	28.08.82
77	Sulley MUNTARI (Gha)	27.07.84
20	Joel OBI (Nga)	22.05.91
18	Andrea POLI	29.09.89
10	Wesley SNEIJDER (Hol)	09.06.84
5	Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser)	11.09.78
FORWARDS		
30	Luc CASTAIGNOS (Hol)	27.02.92
9	Diego FORLAN (Uru)	19.05.79
22	Diego MILITO (Arg)	12.06.79
7	Giampaolo PAZZINI	02.08.84
28	Mauro ZARATE (Arg)	18.03.87
COACH		
	Claudio RANIERI	20.10.51

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
13	Alex MANNINGER (Aut)	04.06.77
30	Marco STORARI	07.01.77
DEFENDERS		
15	Andrea BARZAGLI	08.05.81
19	Leonardo BONUCCI	01.05.87
3	Giorgio CHIELLINI	14.08.84
11	Paolo DE CEGLIE	17.09.86
6	Fabio GROSSO	28.11.77
26	Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Swi)	16.01.84
2	Marco MOTTA	14.05.86
33	Frederik SORENSEN (Den)	14.04.92
MIDFIELDERS		
28	Marcelo ESTIGARRIBIA (Par)	21.09.87
27	Milos KRASIC (Ser)	01.11.84
8	Claudio MARCHISIO	19.01.86
34	Luca MARRONE	28.03.90
5	Michele PAZIENZA	05.08.82
7	Simone PEPE	30.08.83
21	Andrea PIRLO	19.05.79
22	Arturo VIDAL (Chl)	22.05.87
FORWARDS		
38	AMAURI	03.06.80
10	Alessandro DEL PIERO	09.11.74
17	Eljero ELIA (Hol)	13.02.87
24	Emanuele GIACCHERINI	05.05.85
9	Vincenzo IAQUINTA	21.11.79
32	Alessandro MATRI	15.08.84
18	Fabio QUAGLIARELLA	31.01.83
20	Luca TONI	26.05.77
14	Mirko VUCINIC (Mne)	01.10.83
COACH		
	Antonio CONTE	31.07.69

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS		
16	Alessandro BERARDI	16.01.91
1	Albano BIZZARRI (Arg)	09.11.77
22	Federico MARCHETTI	07.02.83
DEFENDERS		
3	ANDRE DIAS (Bra)	15.05.79
20	Giuseppe BIAVA	08.05.77
39	Luis Pedro CAVANDA (Blg)	02.01.90
40	Luca CRESCENZI	02.04.92
21	Mobido DIAKHITE (Fra)	02.03.87
14	Javier GARRIDO (Spa)	15.03.85
29	Abdoulay KONKO (Fra)	09.03.84
26	Stefan RADU (Rom)	22.10.86
5	Lionel SCALONI (Arg)	16.05.78
33	Marius STANKEVICIUS (Lit)	15.07.81
2	Guglielmo STENDARDO	06.05.81
78	Luciano ZAURI	20.01.78
MIDFIELDERS		
32	Cristian BROCCHI	30.01.76
27	Lorik CANA (Alb)	27.07.83
15	Alvaro GONZALEZ (Uru)	29.10.84
8	HERNANES (Bra)	29.05.85
24	Cristian LEDESMA	24.09.82
19	Senad LULIC (Bos)	18.01.86
11	MATUZALEM (Bra)	10.06.80
6	Stefano MAURI	08.01.80
FORWARDS		
92	Tommaso CECCARELLI	02.06.92
99	Djibril CISSE (Fra)	12.08.81
81	Simone DEL NERO	04.08.81
25	Miroslav KLOSE (Ger)	09.06.78
18	Libor KOZAK (CzR)	30.05.89
28	Stephen MAKINWA (Nga)	26.07.83
9	Tommaso ROCCHI	19.09.77
7	Giuseppe SCULLI	23.03.81
COACH		
Edoardo REJA		10.10.45

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS		
81	Massimiliano BENASSI	11.11.79
1	Ugo GABRIELI	06.06.89
27	JULIO SERGIO (Bra)	08.11.78
25	Davide PETRACHI	14.08.86
DEFENDERS		
28	Davide BRIVIO	17.03.88
80	Moris CARROZZIERI	16.11.80
5	Andrea ESPOSITO	17.05.86
13	Stefano FERRARIO	28.03.85
30	Massimo ODDO	14.06.76
40	Nenad TOMOVIC (Ser)	30.08.87
MIDFIELDERS		
91	Andrea BERTOLACCI	11.01.91
7	Juan CUADRADO (Col)	26.05.88
18	Guillermo GIACOMAZZI (Uru)	21.11.77
6	Manuel GIANDONATO	10.10.91
21	Carlos GROSMULLER (Uru)	04.05.83
11	Djamel MESBAH (Alg)	09.10.84
8	Christian OBODO (Nga)	11.05.84
10	Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)	04.05.83
77	Christian PASQUATO	20.07.89
22	Ignacio PIATTI (Arg)	04.02.85
14	Rodney STRASSER (SLe)	30.03.90
FORWARDS		
9	Daniele CORVIA	22.11.84
17	David DI MICHELE	06.01.76
23	Luigi FALCONE	26.05.92
24	Luis MURIEL (Col)	16.04.91
15	Edward OFERE (Nga)	26.03.86
COACH		
Eusebio DI FRANCESCO		08.08.69

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS		
32	Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
1	Marco AMELIA	02.04.82
30	Flavio ROMA	21.06.74
DEFENDERS		
20	Ignazio ABATE	12.11.86
77	Luca ANTONINI	04.02.82
25	Daniele BONERA	31.05.81
52	Mattia DE SCIGLIO	20.10.92
5	Philippe MEXES (Fra)	30.03.82
13	Alessandro NESTA	19.03.76
2	Taye TAIWO (Nga)	16.04.85
33	THIAGO SILVA (Bra)	22.09.84
76	Mario YEPES (Col)	13.01.76
19	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	19.02.77
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
18	Alberto AQUILANI	07.07.84
27	Kevin-Prince BOATENG (Gha)	06.03.87
28	Urby EMANUELSON (Hol)	16.06.86
16	Mathieu FLAMINI (Fra)	07.03.84
8	Gennaro GATTUSO	09.01.78
22	Antonio NOCERINO	09.04.85
10	Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)	01.04.76
57	Mattia VALOTI	06.09.93
4	Mark VAN BOMMEL (Hol)	22.04.77
FORWARDS		
99	Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
92	Stephan EL SHAARAWY	27.10.92
11	Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
9	Filippo INZAGHI	09.08.73
7	Alexandre PATO (Bra)	02.09.89
70	ROBINHO (Bra)	25.01.84
COACH		
Massimiliano ALLEGRI		11.08.67

NAPOLI

GOALKEEPERS		
15	Roberto COLOMBO	24.08.75
1	Morgan DE SANCTIS	26.03.77
83	Antonio ROSATI	26.06.83
DEFENDERS		
6	Salvatore ARONICA	20.01.78
85	Miguel BRITOS (Uru)	17.07.85
14	Hugo CAMPAGNARO (Arg)	27.06.80
28	Paolo CANNAVARO	26.06.81
8	Andrea DOSSENA	11.09.81
21	Federico FERNANDEZ (Arg)	21.02.89
3	Ignacio FIDELEFF (Arg)	04.07.89
2	Gianluca GRAVA	07.03.77
33	Leandro RINAUDO	09.05.83
18	Jaun Camilo ZUNIGA (Col)	14.12.85
MIDFIELDERS		
31	Jacopo DEZI	10.02.92
4	Marco DONADEL	21.04.83
20	Blerim DZEMAILI (Swi)	12.04.86
23	Walter GARGANO (Uru)	27.07.84
17	Marek HAMSIK (Slk)	27.07.87
88	Gokhan INLER (Swi)	27.06.84
11	Cristian MAGGIO	11.02.82
19	Mario SANTANA (Arg)	23.12.81
FORWARDS		
7	Edinson CAVANI (Uru)	14.02.87
32	Cristian CHAVEZ (Arg)	04.06.87
22	Ezequiel LAVEZZI (Arg)	03.05.85
99	Cristiano LUCARELLI	04.10.75
9	Giuseppe MASCARA	22.08.79
29	Goran PANDEV (Mac)	27.07.83
COACH		
Walter MAZZARRI		01.10.61

NOVARA

GOALKEEPERS		
44	Achille COSER	14.07.82
31	Alberto FONTANA	02.12.74
1	Samir UJKANI (Alb)	05.07.88
DEFENDERS		
30	Matteo CENTURIONI	05.08.74
32	Jean-Christophe COUBRONNE (Fra)	30.07.89
15	Paolo DELLAFIORE	02.02.85
26	Santiago GARCIA (Arg)	08.07.88
3	Giuseppe GEMITI	03.05.81
4	Andrea LISUZZO	26.01.81
5	Carlalberto LUDI	24.12.82
14	Michel MORGANELLA (Swi)	17.05.89
24	Massimo PACI	09.05.78
MIDFIELDERS		
2	Luigi GIORGI	19.04.87
18	Francesco MARIANINI	06.05.79
21	Andrea MAZZARANI	06.11.89
22	Simone PESCE	10.07.82
6	Alex PINARDI	05.09.80
17	Filippo PORCARI	28.04.84
23	Ivan RADOVANOVIC (Ser)	29.08.88
10	Marco RIGONI	05.01.80
FORWARDS		
20	Pablo GRANOCHE (Uru)	05.09.83
27	JEDA (Bra)	15.04.79
69	Riccardo MEGGIORINI	04.09.65
11	Takayuki MORIMOTO (Jap)	07.05.88
9	Raffaele RUBINO	09.01.78
COACH		
Attilio TESSER		16.06.58

PALERMO

GOALKEEPERS		
99	Francesco BENUSSI	15.10.81
12	Giacomo BRICHETTO	09.05.83
1	RUBINHO (Bra)	04.08.82
33	Alexandros TZORVAS (Gre)	12.08.82
DEFENDERS		
13	Matias AGUIRREGARAY (Uru)	01.04.89
42	Federico BALZARETTI	06.12.81
4	Mauro CETTO (Arg)	14.04.82
2	Andrea MANTOVANI	22.06.84
6	Ezequiel MUNOZ (Arg)	08.10.90
31	Eros PISANO	31.03.87
3	Matias SILVESTRE (Arg)	25.09.84
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Afriyie ACQUAH (Gha)	05.01.92
90	Edgar ALVAREZ (Hnd)	08.01.80
21	Armin BACINOVIC (Sln)	24.10.89
5	Edgar BARRETO (Par)	15.07.84
14	Nicolas BERTOLO (Arg)	02.01.86
7	Francesco DELLA ROCCA	14.09.87
22	Luca DI MATTEO	25.02.88
27	Josip ILICIC (Sln)	29.01.88
26	Ignacio LORES (Uru)	26.04.91
8	Giulio MIGLIACCIO	23.06.81
30	Adam SIMON (Hun)	30.03.90
16	Eran ZAHAVI (Isr)	25.07.87
FORWARDS		
19	Igor BUDAN (Cro)	22.04.80
11	Abel HERNANDEZ (Uru)	06.08.90
10	Fabrizio MICCOLI	27.06.79
51	Mauricio PINILLA (Chl)	04.02.84
CARETAKER COACH		
Devis MANGIA		06.06.74

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS		
92	Alberto GALLINETTA	16.04.92
83	Antonio MIRANTE	08.07.83
1	Nicola PAVARINI	24.02.74
DEFENDERS		
13	Jardim BRANDAO (Por)	09.10.86
3	Rolf FELTSCHER (Swi)	06.10.90
18	Massimo GOBBI	31.10.80
6	Alessandro LUCARELLI	22.07.77
29	Gabriel PALETTA (Arg)	15.02.86
19	Matteo RUBIN	09.07.87
33	Fabiano SANTACROCE	24.08.86
5	Cristian ZACCARDO	21.12.81
MIDFIELDERS		
20	Manuele BLASI	17.08.80
8	Daniele GALLOPPA	15.05.85
10	Sebastian GIOVINCO	26.01.87
28	Abderrazzak JADID (Mor)	01.06.83
32	Fernando MARQUES (Spa)	04.12.84
23	Francesco MODESTO	16.02.82
4	Stefano MORRONE	26.10.76
24	Gianluca MUSACCI	01.04.87
40	Nwankwo OBIORA (Nga)	12.07.91
14	Danilo PEREIRA (Por)	09.09.91
80	Francesco VALIANI	29.10.80
77	ZE EDUARDO (Bra)	16.08.91
FORWARDS		
7	Jonathan BIABIANY (Fra)	28.04.86
9	Hernan CRESPO (Arg)	05.07.75
11	Sergio FLOCCARI	12.11.81
22	Raffaele PALLADINO	17.04.84
99	Graziano PELLE	15.07.85
17	Jaime VALDES (Chl)	11.01.81
COACH		
Franco COLOMBA		06.02.55

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS		
18	Gianluca CURCI	12.07.85
1	Bogdan LOBONT (Rom)	16.01.78
93	Mirko PIGLIACELLI	30.06.93
24	Maarten STEKELENBURG (Hol)	22.09.82
DEFENDERS		
29	Nicolas BURDISSO (Arg)	12.04.81
77	Marco CASSETTI	29.05.77
2	CICINHO (Bra)	24.06.80
5	Gabriel HEINZE (Arg)	19.04.78
3	JOSE ANGEL (Spa)	05.09.89
4	JUAN (Bra)	01.02.79
44	Simon KJAER (Den)	26.03.89
21	Loic NEGO (Fra)	15.01.91
MIDFIELDERS		
16	Daniele DE ROSSI	24.07.83
19	Fernando GAGO (Arg)	10.04.86
23	Leandro GRECO	19.07.86
8	Erik LAMELA (Arg)	25.03.92
20	Simone PERROTTA	17.09.77
7	David PIZARRO (Chl)	11.09.79
15	Miralem PJANIC (Bos)	02.04.90
30	Fabio SIMPLICIO (Bra)	23.09.79
11	Rodrigo TADDEI (Bra)	06.03.80
94	Valerio VERRE	11.01.94
92	Federico VIVIANI	24.03.92
FORWARDS		
14	BOJAN Krkic (Spa)	28.06.90
31	Fabio BORINI	23.03.91
22	Marco BORRIELLO	18.06.82
47	Gianluca CAPRARI	30.07.93
89	Stefano OKAKA	09.06.89
9	Pablo OSVALDO	12.01.86
10	Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76
COACH		
LUIS ENRIQUE (Spa)		08.05.70

SIENA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Zeljko BRKIC (Ser)	09.07.86
12	Simone FARELLI	19.02.83
25	Gianluca PEGOLO	25.03.81
DEFENDERS		
33	Gabriele ANGELLA	28.04.89
6	ANGELO (Bra)	12.06.81
15	Nicola BELMONTE	15.04.87
80	Matteo CONTINI	16.04.80
3	Cristiano DEL GROSSO	24.03.83
27	Milan MILANOVIC (Ser)	31.03.91
26	Emanuele PESOLI	31.08.80
13	Luca ROSSETTINI	09.05.85
21	Andrea ROSSI	07.11.86
19	Claudio TERZI	19.06.84
2	Roberto VITIELLO	08.05.83
MIDFIELDERS		
36	Francesco BOLZONI	07.05.89
23	Franco BRIENZA	19.03.79
5	Paul CODREA (Rom)	04.04.81
10	Gaetano D'AGOSTINO	03.06.82
14	Alessandro GAZZI	28.01.83
17	Paolo GROSSI	29.05.85
70	Daniele MANNINI	25.10.83
83	REGINALDO (Bra)	31.07.83
77	Alessio SESTU	29.09.83
7	Gennaro TROIANIELLO	21.03.83
8	Simone VERGASSOLA	24.01.76
FORWARDS		
11	Emanuele CALAIO	08.01.82
22	Mattia DESTRO	20.03.91
18	Pablo GONZALEZ (Arg)	28.05.85
9	Marcelo LARRONDO (Arg)	16.08.88
COACH		
Giuseppe SANNINO		30.04.57

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS		
6	Emanuele BELARDI	09.10.77
1	Samir HANDANOVIC (Sln)	14.07.84
21	Daniele PADELLI	29.10.85
26	Rafael ROMO (Ven)	25.02.90
DEFENDERS		
27	Pablo ARMERO (Col)	02.11.86
17	Medhi BENATIA (Mor)	17.04.87
16	Andrea CODA	25.04.85
5	DANILO (Bra)	10.05.84
11	Maurizio DOMIZZI	28.06.80
24	Joel EKSTRAND (Swe)	04.02.89
32	Damiano FERRONETTI	01.11.84
3	Mauricio ISLA (Chl)	12.06.88
13	NEUTON (Bra)	14.03.90
26	Giovanni PASQUALE	05.01.82
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Almen ABDI (Swi)	21.10.86
7	Emmanuel AGYEMANG-BADU (Gha)	02.12.90
20	Kwadwo ASAMOAH (Gha)	09.12.88
8	Dusan BASTA (Ser)	18.08.84
18	Cristian BATTOCCHIO (Arg)	10.02.92
30	Thierry DOUBAI (IvC)	01.07.88
66	Giampiero PINZI	11.03.81
22	Abdou SISSOKO (Fra)	20.03.90
25	Gabriel TORJE (Rom)	22.11.89
FORWARDS		
9	BARRETO (Bra)	12.07.85
10	Antonio DI NATALE	13.10.77
31	Diego FABBRINI	31.07.90
83	Antonio FLORO FLORES	18.06.83
37	Roberto PEREYRA (Arg)	17.01.91
COACH		
Francesco GUIDOLIN		03.10.55

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Holland 1988

They harnessed the talents of Gullit and Van Basten to become the first – and so far only – Dutch side to win an international title

Orange in bloom... Holland at Euro 88

After the exhilarating events of the 1970s, Dutch football took a turn for the worse in the early and mid 1980s. The national team missed out on the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, while France emerged as the dominant nation in Europe, winning Euro 84.

But, in the second half of the decade, a group of players emerged who would push Dutch football back to the centre of the European game. In May 1988, PSV Eindhoven, featuring young sweeper Ronald Koeman, won the European Cup, while Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten were spearheading Milan's revival.

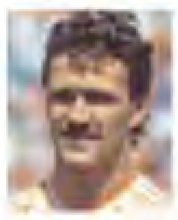
At international level, Holland, with Rinus Michels back at the helm, went to the 1988 European Championship in neighbouring West Germany – scene of their 1974 World Cup Final defeat – with a new generation of ambitious young players. It was not, however, all plain sailing. After losing their opening group game to the Soviet Union, Michels' side were held by England and then needed a last-gasp win over the Republic of Ireland to set up an epic semi-final, in which they beat the hosts in Hamburg.

Oranje fans poured over the border for the Final in Munich's Olympic stadium. The Soviets, without suspended defender Oleg Kuznetsov, were overrun by the brilliance of Gullit and Van Basten. Both scored in a 2-0 victory, with Van Basten's volley for the second goal remembered as one of the greatest ever.

"We have no reason to talk any more about 1974," said Michels in *World Soccer* in July 1988. "We beat West Germany in Hamburg so now 1974 is history." **WS**

THE FIRST XI

Hans Van Breukelen
Goalkeeper
Had just won the European Cup with PSV. Conceded and then saved a penalty in the Euro 88 Final.

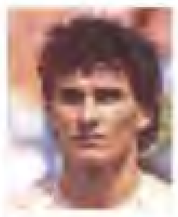


Berry Van Aerle
Right-back
PSV captain, who worked as a postman when he retired. Replaced the injured Sonny Silooy.

Frank Rijkaard
Centre-back
Began the season by walking out on Ajax after a dispute with Johan Cruyff.

Ronald Koeman
Centre-back
Sweeper with a powerful shot and great passing ability. Was the reigning Dutch player of the year.

Adri Van Tiggelen
Left-back
Played his club football with Anderlecht of Belgium, and an ever present at Euro 88.



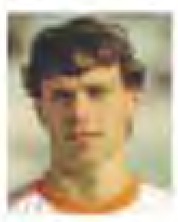
Gerald Vanenburg
Midfielder
Skilful winger who was raised at Ajax and then joined PSV, where he won the European Cup.

Jan Wouters
Midfielder
Combative figure labelled a "thug" by the British media after breaking Paul Gascoigne's cheekbone.

Arnold Muhren
Midfielder
Elder statesman who returned to Holland and the national team after a spell in England.

Erwin Koeman
Midfielder
Elder brother of Ronald, he played for Mechelen in Belgium.

Ruud Gullit
Forward
The reigning European and World Player of the Year, Holland's captain and their key player.



Marco Van Basten
Centre-forward
Brilliant all-round goalscorer who recovered from injury to play a crucial role at Euro 88.

THE COACH AND HIS TEAM

Rinus Michels
Nicknamed "The General" for his tough demeanour and named coach of the century by FIFA in 1999. He earned his reputation as the father of "total football" after introducing his ideas at Ajax and Barcelona in the 1970s, and as coach of Holland at the 1974 World Cup. After suffering a heart attack in 1984, he returned as a consultant to the Dutch FA and then took charge of the national team for the 1988 Euro finals. He coached Bayer Leverkusen after the tournament and died, aged 77, in 2005.

Champion...Michels

The formation
Under Michels, Holland played an attacking game based on width and close control, but it was a less adventurous version of the "total football" practised in the 1970s. The 1988 team were more direct, with Muhren and Erwin Koeman often playing long, aerial balls to Gullit and Van Basten – with the most famous from Muhren setting up Van Basten's volley in the Euro 88 Final. "We emphasised to Van Basten he should not come deep to look for the ball," said Michels, "so we always had someone to aim for when under pressure."

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